



The Flat Hat

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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY SINCE 1911

<http://flathat.wm.edu>

REVIEWS:
Mos Def and Bruce Willis fight
for and against the law in
'16 Blocks,' page 13

SPORTS:
Learn Korea's national sport with
the Tae Kwon Do club, page 16

City council votes to purchase house

Council discussing further acquisitions in effort to cut back on rental housing

BY JAMES DAMON
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

The Williamsburg City Council passed a bill at its March 9 meeting that will loan the Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority funds to purchase a rental property at 110 Harrison Ave. and convert it into an "owner-occupied" residence.

The house is located within one block of the College in the West Williamsburg Heights neighborhood. The city council will grant the housing authority approximately \$310,000 in loans for the renovation of the house. Once renovated, the house is to be sold with the stipulation that it remain owner-occupied.

The West Williamsburg Heights neighborhood, where the property is located, was intended to be comprised of owner-occupied properties., the council said. According to the city's planning department, the neighborhood is currently comprised of 62 percent rental homes.

"The long-term viability of this neighborhood would be advanced by this intervention," a request filed by City Manager Jackson Tuttle, read.

David Kranbuehl, owner of the house, approached the city with his property Feb. 23. Kranbuehl has been vocally critical of the negative impact that rental properties have on Williamsburg neighborhoods.

At an Oct. 2003 city council meeting, Kranbuehl spoke against the construction of student-oriented dwellings on Richmond Road. At that meeting, Kranbuehl said that the city council's focus should be on residential restoration, not the avail-

ability of student housing.

No students of the College had ever lived in the property, but some, including candidate for city council junior David Sievers, point out that the property could have been rented to students.

Vice Mayor Clyde Haulman, chair of the College's economics department, emphasized the need to balance rental and owner-occupied housing. Neighborhoods with excessive renting often suffer from issues such as deteriorating housing stock and an increase in complaints to police, he said.

"There comes a time when a neighborhood becomes so much rental-based that no one wants to own property," Haulman said.

At a March 4 city council retreat, Haulman and others on the council discussed the possibility of purchasing rental properties in the Williamsburg and converting them into single-unit properties. Like the property at Harrison Ave., these residences would be sold with the stipulation that they remain owner-occupied.

The council also discussed the possibility of inserting clauses into residences that are currently owner occupied, which would require future owners to live on the property.

Although not all rental property is occupied by students, approximately 1,000 College students live off campus. The council said that 55 percent of Williamsburg property is rented out.

Several students at the College

See HOUSE + page 4

UFO: ULTIMATE FRISBEE OUTREACH



COURTESY PHOTO • FREEHEELIMAGES

Freshman Davis Waller demonstrates perfect flick-throwing form while picking apart Carleton College's zone defense in ultimate frisbee. The team placed third in the Stanford Invitational over spring break.



COURTESY PHOTO • UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
Sean Pieri is set to be confirmed as vice president for development.

BOV to fill office

Sean Pieri will head College fundraising

BY MAXIM LOTT
THE FLAT HAT

Sean Pieri, who currently works as VP for development at the U.S. Air Force Academy, was chosen to become the College's VP for development. The Board of Visitors is expected to confirm Pieri officially at their meeting in April.

He will replace interim VP for Development Susan Pettyjohn.

Pieri will oversee the completion of the Campaign for William and Mary. The campaign's initial goal was to raise \$500 million. According to Pieri, with a year left and \$450 million already received, the campaign is ahead of schedule. He will be in charge of all fundraising projects at the College.

"It sounds like raising money, but it's really about building relationships," he said. "It's about connecting people with an institution that they love and showing them how they can help make it better. So, techniques? It's relationships. That's what it is."

Before his job at the Air Force Academy, Pieri worked as the VP for development at the University of Washington in Seattle. He did similar work at DePaul University.

"The Air Force Academy experience definitely helped me understand the situation better," Pieri said, although he added that the conditions of the University of Washington were closer to those of the College.

He said he was optimistic about attracting donors.

"The grads that I've met are extremely proud they attended here," Pieri said. "When you talk about

See OFFICE + page 4

Two fraternities receive housing suspensions



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT

Brothers of the Kappa Alpha fraternity may keep their unit through May.

Following violations of probation, Kappa Alpha loses unit for at least one year and Psi Upsilon has charter revoked

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
THE FLAT HAT

Despite recent hearings and appeals, Psi Upsilon and Kappa Alpha, two fraternities that lost their residency privileges last month, will not be allowed to return to campus next fall. While KA will continue to function as a fraternity, Psi U lost official recognition from both the College and their national chapter.

Psi U's expulsion was the result of two incidents that occurred at their campus lodge this winter. The

first occurred in December, when the fraternity was charged with illicit drug use and vandalism to their residence that resulted in \$2,500 in damages. According to Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler, the College took measures to reprimand the organization, including their immediate removal from their campus residence in the punishment.

"[The sanctions against Psi U] were probation through the Fall 2006 semester, loss of housing effective immediately for a period of one year and restitution for the damages

caused," Sadler said. Psi U was also required to develop a program to address drug use in the fraternity.

The second incident occurred Feb. 8 when the fraternity held an overcrowded, "unregistered" party in their lodge with underage students the night of the judicial council's decision.

"They violated the probation they had been put on just that evening," Sadler. In response, chapter president junior Sam Maddox held an

See FRATERNITIES + page 4

SA Senate approves budget with revisions, sends to Scofield

BY HEATHER KEELON
THE FLAT HAT

After lengthy debate last Tuesday night, the Student Assembly Senate passed SA President junior Ryan Scofield's Student Activities budget. The senators also heard protests from members of Students for Life and Voices for Planned Parenthood, who both contested their allotments.

VOX had asked for \$300 for advertising and a cell phone for their Planned Parenthood Ride Service, which offers students rides to the center 40 minutes away, out of range for Williamsburg bus services. The club was given only \$50. Students for Life initially received only \$20 out of their requested \$60.

After clarifying that the money for VOX was going toward advertisement for rides and not transportation, Senate Chair senior Luther Lowe proposed an amendment that would provide the club the \$300 initially requested.

"They offer important services

to women on this campus, and there was a rationale for this request, and we cut them off at the knees," Lowe said.

The senate, however, was divided over the request for money to fund a cell phone for the group.

"There are better uses for this money, namely recycling, which is where it's coming from," junior Sen. Scott Fitzgerald said. "[A] prepaid cell phone may be important, but I think the organization should pay for it through their own budget."

Several other senators echoed this sentiment. According to junior Sen. Greg Teich, there are many other organizations and funds that could use an additional \$300 allocation.

Junior Sen. Sean Barker said he believed that a cell phone was a necessity for such an organization.

"Having a number with voice-mail that can explain what you've reached and what you do is pretty important," Barker said.

Barker added that a woman wishing to contact the organization would

not want to reach a dorm room number or personal cell phone.

Sophomore Sen. Cait Smith said that VOX provides a critical service to the college community.

"They're here, and there's something to be said for that," Smith said. "I am in full support of giving them \$300. There is a definite need on our campus for women's health and safety. There is no better place at this point and time for this money to go."

The vote for Lowe's amendment, 7-5-5, lacked a majority vote by the senate. According to assembly rules, if the senate does not reach a majority when voting on an amendment, the SA vice president has the power to accept or reject the proposal. In accordance with the rule, the amendment was handed to SA Vice President Junior Amanda Norris, who passed the legislation.

The increase to Students for Life's financial allotment was

See SA + page 4



ALICE HAHN • THE FLAT HAT

Junior Sen. Scott Fitzgerald confers with Chief of Staff junior James Evans at Tuesday evening's session.

Inside this week’s issue



Williamsburg one-man-band Scott Varney gave up playing punk and hardcore after an eye-opening Keller Williams concert. Now he comes to Aromas.

See ONE-MAN-BAND, page 9.



Revolutionary rapper Aceyalone constructs a vibrant hip hop landscape on his new album “Magnificent City.”

See MAGNIFICENT, page 13.



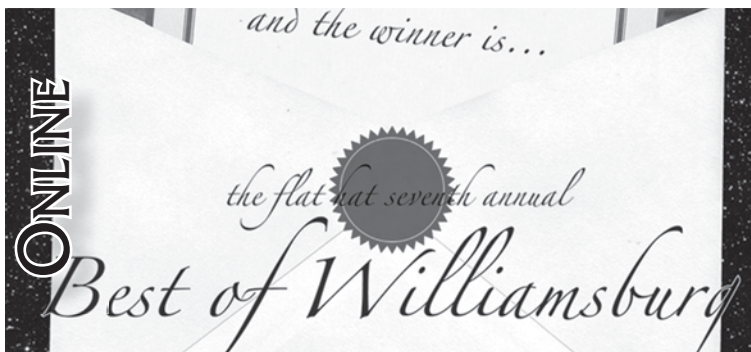
Is this trend of activism indicative of disproportionately high levels of discrimination toward white male, Christian students?

See LEARNING, page 8.



Despite high hopes and good starts, baseball hits a rough patch with a series loss to JMU.

See DUKES, page 15.



Have you ever wondered about the best ways to waste time in Williamsburg? Visit The Flat Hat online to find that and more by downloading “The Best of Williamsburg.”

See <http://flathat.wm.edu/>

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The Flat Hat

‘Stabilitas et Fides’

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Letters to the Editor and Opinions columns are due at 5 p.m. Tuesday for publication the following Friday. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced, and must include the author’s name, telephone number and any relevant titles or affiliations with campus or national groups. Letters may be no more than 300 words, columns may not be less than 500 words nor more than 700. Letters must be e-mailed to fhops@wm.edu.

The Flat Hat reserves the right to edit all material. Because of space limitations, The Flat Hat may not publish all submissions.

The Flat Hat Editorial Board meets weekly to discuss the position taken by editorials. Unsigned editorials are written by the Editor or a designated member of the Editorial Board. All Board editorials reflect the consensus of the Editorial Board. Letters, columns, graphics and cartoons reflect the view of the author only.

The Flat Hat wishes to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Corrections may be submitted by e-mail to the section editor in which the incorrect information was printed. Requests for corrections will be accepted at any time.

Beyond the ‘Burg

♦ STUDENTS JUMP FROM WINDOWS TO ESCAPE HOUSE FIRE AT U. PENN

(U-WIRE) PHILADELPHIA — When University of Pennsylvania engineering senior Elizabeth Plummer escaped the flames engulfing 4042 Sansom St., she turned and found none of her housemates behind her.

Unlike the other house residents, Plummer braved the cloud of smoke filling the row house’s front hallway and left the building through the front door. Everyone else saw the smoke’s intensity and turned to the windows instead.

The March 3 fire broke out at about 3:35 a.m. and gutted the building, which was home to six students. The five residents were all hospitalized, as was one other Penn student and a Bryn Mawr College student.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Students involved in the incident agreed that it was certainly a scene of chaos and confusion, due in part to their lack of a plan for such situations.

Penn senior Joe Russo — who is currently at home, recovering from burn injuries — said he had no plans for fire evacuation. ...

But regardless of how elaborate a fire safety plan may be, the escape route may not always work out, he added.

“Instinct and reaction take over from cognitive thinking and planning,” Wharton College senior Ricardo Franco said. “We jumped. Why? Because we wanted to live.” ...

When the fire alarm first sounded, both Plummer and Penn senior Kenneth Aulet descended to the first floor to investigate. Aulet threw the front door open, and both ran back upstairs to alert the others.

While Plummer returned to the front door, Aulet climbed out of his second-story window. Holding onto the windowsill, Aulet tried to lower himself onto the ground, but the intensity of flames from the first floor window forced him to drop.

“That startled me enough that I just let go,” he said.

Though Aulet and Plummer opened the front door, other residents did not know if it was available as an exit.

“The front door could have been completely in flames,” Franco said ...

— By Elaine Wong, Daily Pennsylvanian (U. Penn)

— compiled by maxim lott

WEEKEND
WEATHER

Friday



High 57°
Low 35°

Saturday



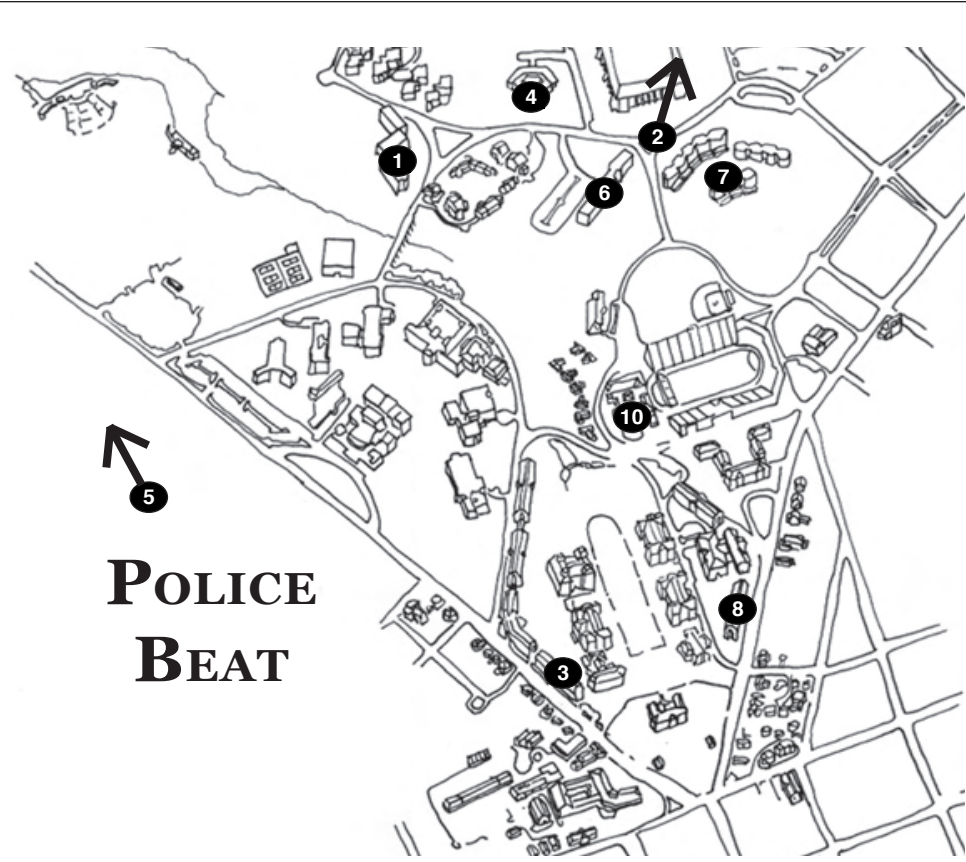
High 57°
Low 31°

Sunday



High 54°
Low 31°

Source: www.weather.com



Thursday, Feb. 23 — A student reported that his bicycle, with an estimated value of \$1,000, was stolen at Dupont Hall. **1**

Friday, Feb. 24 — A coat, cell phone and ID card were reported stolen at the Rec Center. The items have a combined estimated value of \$190. **2**

— Two students were arrested for alleged

underage possession of alcohol near Jefferson Hall. **3**

Saturday, Feb. 25 — A bike with an estimated value of \$150 was reportedly stolen outside of the Commons Dining Facility. **4**

— A caller reported loud noises coming from a party in the Ludwell Apartments. Upon arrival, officers asked the participants to turn

down the music. **5**

Sunday, Feb. 26 — The side view mirror of a 2002 black Nissan was allegedly broken while the vehicle was parked on Yates Drive. The damage was estimated at \$400. **6**

Monday, Feb. 27 — A student reported threats made to her through electronic devices. **7**

Tuesday, Feb. 28 — A student spoke to police about his concern that his biometric information was being used in ads on websites.

— An Information Technology specialist from Chico, Cal., advised police about suspicious activity on Chico government web servers that seems to stem from a student’s computer on the College’s server.

— A Williamsburg resident reported loud yelling and screaming coming from the fraternity complex. Police reported that the noise seemed to have been caused by students playing a game of tag football. **7**

Wednesday, March 1 — An anonymous caller reported that persons in Monroe Hall were being loud. Resident assistants were notified and reportedly spoke to the subjects. **8**

Thursday, March 2 — Larceny of a bicycle worth an estimated \$350 was reported outside of Jefferson Hall. **3**

Friday, March 3 — A student was arrested for allegedly communicating a threat to kill or do bodily harm to others.

Monday, March 6 — A student reported the theft of a book bag worth approximately \$100 from the University Center. **10**

— compiled by maxim lott

STREET BEAT :
What did you do for spring break?



I went to Florida and saw the Mets in spring training.

♦ Josh Clayton, sophomore



I holed myself up in Alderman Library [at U.Va.] to write my thesis.

♦ Stephanie Reed, senior



I took a family vacation and then went home and rested it up.

♦ Laura Gilbert, sophomore



I went to Canada and drove a dog-sled.

♦ Chas Tyson, freshmen

— photos and interviews by Jon Seiden



COURTESY PHOTO • WILLIAM & MARY NEWS
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation archaeologist Lucie Vinciguerra examines a wall uncovered by a construction crew renovating the president's house Feb. 27. A colonial well was uncovered near the Wren Building March 7. Since then, both artifacts have been reburied without further exploration.

Workers renovating president's house discover colonial artifacts near Wren

By Austin Wright
Flat Hat Insight Editor

While replacing mechanical, electrical and plumbing utilities at the president's house, the construction crew discovered two colonial utilities — a segment of a drain and a fully-intact well — buried in the ground.

The first discovery occurred Feb. 27 when the construction crew dug a trench approximately 35 feet west of the president's house. Construction Superintendent Rick Adams said that after noticing some bricks in the ground, Lucie Vinciguerra, an archaeologist from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, went into the trench to inspect. She discovered that the bricks were connected by shell mortar, leading archaeologists to believe that they date back to the 18th century, when shell mortar was commonly used. Similar sec-

tions of a drain were discovered in the area by excavators during the 1930s.

Adams said that the construction crew altered the trench route to avoid damaging the bricks.

According to Steve Archer, research associate at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and adjunct instructor of anthropology at the College, the discovery of the drain is not extremely significant, although it does reveal more about what colonists did to alleviate drainage problems.

However, Archer, who was on site March 7 when the well was discovered, said in an e-mail to The Flat Hat that its discovery could prove historically noteworthy.

"Wells, because they go so deep in the ground and are sealed, often provide extraordinary preservation for artifacts that do not otherwise survive, particularly organic

materials," he said. "Although we did not open the well, it is likely a unique and significant 'time capsule' of life at the early College."

Archer had been working at the site for about a month, monitoring the construction crew. He said that whenever construction crews at the College break ground, archaeologists are on hand to observe and record anything of historical importance.

"Initially, the excavators hit a segment of very disturbed brick paving. We thought it was a segment of abandoned walkway, but upon further excavation, it appears to be a small platform around the well," he said. "If you think of the well as like a paper towel roll standing on its end, the trench ran just as a tangent to the cylinder, enabling us to see the outer wall, but the well was not intruded upon or compromised."

The well was discovered on

the north side of the Wren Building. According to Director of the Historic Campus Louise Kale, two other wells that served the Wren Building were previously discovered. And like the other two, this one was re-buried.

"I wanted to break in right away and go looking, but it will take thousands of dollars," Kale said. "There are no immediate plans to do anything except preserve the well."

According to Archer, well excavation is costly and dangerous because these structures are often 40 to 50 feet deep. He said that, once removed from their burial environment, artifacts deteriorate rapidly and require massive conservation efforts.

"It will be in the ground undisturbed for future generations to inspect," Kale said. "I don't think we can say that we've fully solved the mystery."

General Assembly passes law to bolster campus security

By Katie Photiadis
The Flat Hat

Virginia21 celebrated the passage of the Protect Virginia Students legislation in the General Assembly Feb. 2. The legislation, sponsored by Del. Philip A. Hamilton (R-Newport News) and Sen. Ken Stolle (R-Virginia Beach), is a three-part strategy that aims to strengthen campus police, increase universities' accountability for crime and empower college communities by allowing them to solve security problems on their own.

Virginia21 is a bipartisan "action-tank" committed to advocating on behalf of 18 to 24-year-old Virginia residents. Recently, it has addressed campus security problems throughout the commonwealth. The Virginia21 campus safety regulation was motivated by the research of the Virginia Crime Commission during its extensive two-year investigation of campus crime. During the investigation, the commission discovered several flaws within university security systems, such as a lack of state-wide standards for hiring or training campus security, a lack of a centralized database for campus safety and no written policies and procedural manuals for many campus police and security departments.

According to University Relations Information Manager Brian Whitson, the College already has "an extremely well-trained campus police force."

Additionally, he said that the College utilizes policy manuals for police and is one of only four colleges in Virginia that has an entirely accredited police force.

Even though the College might meet all the Virginia Crime Commission's requirements, the commission's findings indicate that campus security is wanting in several colleges and universities in Virginia. To improve campus security, Virginia21 advocated for the passage of the Protect Virginia Students legislation, which makes colleges accountable for the safety of their students and creates a competitive grant program to encourage local college communities to address crime.

The bill's first requirement is to create an office of campus law enforcement to help improve and regulate campus security. The office will regulate staff hiring, training and certification standards for campus security departments. It will also create innovative policies to help security spend money more effectively, implement centralized data collection and provide technical assistance to departments.

The new legislation will also hold colleges accountable for campus crime. Currently, the commonwealth evaluates colleges annually based on affordability, diversity and availability of financial aid. However, with the passage of this act, Virginia colleges will also be measured by the safety of their campuses.

Virginia21 contends that the passage of this legislation will empower college campuses. To balance the fact that colleges will be held accountable for promoting student safety, they will also be awarded grants as rewards for safe campuses.

"By providing grants to college communities, we can empower them to solve the problems facing their campus," Virginia21 spokesman David Solimini said.

Additionally, college communities will be granted autonomy over how they choose to spend the money.

The bill was sent to Gov. Timothy M. Kaine for approval.

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SA

FROM PAGE 1

debated due to the senate’s restrictive guidelines on allocations for religious organizations. Although the group itself has no religious affiliation, its pregnancy center is run by a local Catholic ministry.

Freshman Sen. Matt Beato said the senate is not permitted to allocate funds to support religious worship or religious activities. The senate voted 9-3-5 to provide the full allotment, on the basis that the funds would only be used for publicity.

The senate also discussed the decision to fund organizations that profit from sponsored events. The Filipino-American Student Association requested \$500 from the SA, but was only granted \$200 to pay for props because many of its culture events turn a profit.

According to Barker, many of the campus’s cultural organizations use profits to fund events later in the year, including seminars, lectures and trips.

“Just because an event makes a profit does not mean that the club makes a profit,” Barker said. “These groups

... cannot rely on the will of the [Executive Appropriations Committee].”

The largest objection to funding the two groups had to do with money not used for the event. The funds would be allocated for an unspecified purpose, a prospect that several senators said made them uneasy.

Beato said that when organizations apply for funding, they often write down only the events that generate a profit. He suggested that clubs should list all events they hold, whether or not they turn a profit. According to Beato, this is how the procedure is intended to work, but it is not always followed by organizations.

The senate voted to leave the amount provided at \$200. The vote was 4-12-1.

The budget passed 10-6-0. It was given to Scofield, who will review it this weekend. If he approves the budget, the Board of Visitors will review it.

The senate also passed an opinion protesting the Williamsburg City Council’s recent purchase of a local house. The purchase is part of an ongoing initiative by the council to reduce the number of rental houses in the neighborhood. For more information, see Housing, page one. The opinion passed 14-1-1.

HOUSE

FROM PAGE 1

said they are apprehensive about the proposal, which could affect off-campus housing options for students. Some have expressed concern regarding the lack of student input in the proposal and the timing of the request to renovate the house at 110 Harrison Ave. The city council met last Thursday, when students were on spring break.

“With issues as sensitive as this one, it may have been a good idea to open discussions with students,” junior David Sievers said. “It seems that the perception of the student body is that this was targeted at them.”

Additionally, Sievers pointed to the city council’s discussion of this

property acquisition as a pilot program at their March 9 meeting. He said that he considers this the first step in what could be the conversion of more rental property. Sievers has taken this semester off in order to run for a position on the city council.

In response to this criticism, Haulman emphasized that the proposal was nothing more than an idea.

“Floating ideas around in a retreat is not the same thing as saying, ‘we have a policy, and this is what we’re going to do.’” Haulman said.

If a policy of rental property renovation is pursued, Haulman promised that discussion would precede any action taken by the city council.

The city council meets the second Thursday of every month. The meeting minutes can be viewed online at www.williamsburgva.gov/dept/council/index.htm.

FRATERNITIES

FROM PAGE 1

informal hearing Feb. 22 with Dean of Students Patricia Volp and Psi Upsilon Executive Director Mark Williams.

“It was decided that the chapter would be suspended through spring 2008,” Maddox said. After the two-year suspension, the fraternity will be able to appeal for campus housing and reinstatement to their national chapter. Though reinstatement is not guaranteed, the fraternity will not have to apply through the Council for Fraternity Affairs, and will be allowed to forego the fraternity housing waiting list.

According to Maddox, he said this was the best deal available to his fraternity.

“Basically, we thought that was a pretty good decision, and it’s not a very long [suspension]. We did an informal hearing, and we agreed with the fact and there was not much we could appeal on,” he said. “I feel the whole situation is unfortunate, and I hate to see Psi U go for the next few years. However, I feel like I and my fellow brothers, though we no longer have our organization, can still continue to have a bodacious time and individually create a most righteous presence on this campus.”

OFFICE

FROM PAGE 1

William and Mary to a grad, their heart starts thumping because of all the experiences that they had here.”

According to Pieri, the College is an elite public university and is in a relatively unique position for fundraising.

“[The] state will fund William and Mary to a level of being good, but ... if you really want to distinguish William and Mary among the elite universities in this country, it needs private support,” Pieri said.

Pieri said he was excited to work at such a distinguished university.

“This is one of the best schools in the nation,” he said. “How could you not want to be associated with William and Mary?”

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By BECKY EASLEY
FLAT HAT SCIENCE COLUMNIST

The College held the 12th annual Undergraduate Science Research Symposium in the University Center Feb. 25. Over 100 students participated by either presenting a conference-style poster or leading a 10-minute discussion about their research. A variety of science departments took part with projects on topics ranging from fundamental particles called muons to the Matoaka woods.

Students stood by posters they put on display in the Chesapeake and Tidewater rooms of the UC, ready to explain their work and answer questions. The layout of posters required students to condense their work into one or two paragraphs, which required them to present their research in a more accessible way.

Senior Chris Muir gained experience discussing his research with spectators.

“The symposium allowed me to practice presenting my research coherently to friends and faculty, which I would otherwise not have done,” Muir said.

The variety of topics ensured that many science enthusiasts would find projects of interest to them. Biology professor Margaret Saha said that she enjoyed the informal and personal aspects of the poster presentations.

Short discussions in UC conference rooms followed the poster display. This portion of the symposium allowed participants to witness researchers condense months or years of research into a few slides and entertain questions from students or professors.

Projects included results that were relevant to the Williamsburg area, such as studies of hurricane Isabel, research on the effects of hurricane Katrina and research conducted at the Jefferson Lab in Newport News. Some students examined medical issues such as heart disease and cancer.

Senior Erin Crowder said that her research could lead to a better understanding of diseases such as sudden infant death syndrome or sleep apnea. Senior Christina Wales was excited to report that her research led to a new chemistry finding.

“This summer, I was sure a reaction had failed when a solid that was supposed to stay orange turned white, but when we tested the product it turned out that we had stumbled upon something no one had ever made before,” Wales said.

The physics department sponsored discussions and posters displaying research on quantum dots, muons and white light. The psychology department presented research on topics such as perceptions of childhood cancer, cross-sex friendships and sexual content

in advertising.

Overall, students said that the symposium was a useful and positive experience. Many students used the symposium to practice for honors theses defenses or future conferences, and their work on preparing for the symposium helped them find flaws in their research that could be corrected.

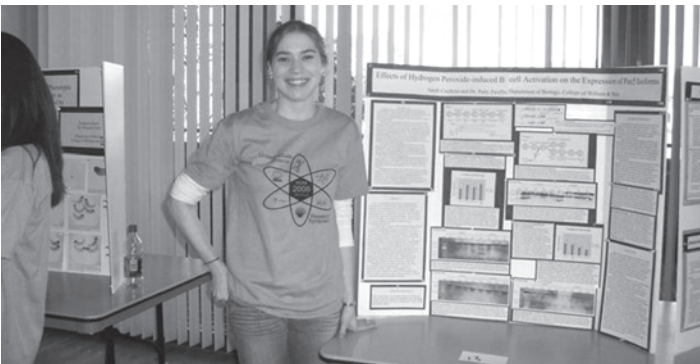
“I also got an idea of the type of questions [professors] might ask, like at my thesis defense,” Muir added.

Students defending their theses at the end of the semester will be faced with many difficult questions from a variety of professors outside of their lab.

The symposium provided students interested in research with a broad view of what is going on in the College’s science departments.

In addition, the symposium gave students a chance to show pride in their work, while professors noted how diverse and successful undergraduate research is at the College.

“I am always impressed by how many [students] were doing really good research,” Saha said.



COURTESY PHOTO • BECKY EASLEY
Biology student senior Sarah Caulkins stands next to the result of her research on hydrogen peroxide induced B-cell activation.

World Beat: Africa Drought cripples nations

By ALEXANDER DANVERS
THE FLAT HAT

An estimated 11.5 million inhabitants of the Horn of Africa are suffering from a year-long drought, the March 15 online edition of BBC News reported. Officials from the aid agency Oxfam estimate that it will take the economy of northeastern Kenya up to 15 years to recover from the loss of livestock, which has been as high as 75 percent in some regions.

According to the Feb. 16 online edition of BBC News, inhabitants of southern Somalia have increasingly

Turkana tribe, a girl was raped and a boy killed for attempting to take a drink of water. Akiru Lomukuny of the Turkana tribe said that she could obtain water from a spring 10 miles away but would have to cross the border into Uganda and fears being ambushed by Dadas clan members.

“We were usually attacked on our way back,” she said to CBS. “We would lose all of our water ... sometimes they strip us naked, take all of our beads.”

Much of Africa is suffering from a famine, which has been exacerbated by a decade of consistently low rainfall, BBC News reported. Al-

tion alone and has repeatedly asked for additional donations, the March 8 online edition of the Associated Press reported. It would cost \$189 million more just to feed the 3.5 million people in need in Kenya. The world food program was able to feed 1.7 million people in Somalia in 2005, and Morris estimates that the same number will require aid for six months or longer.

According to the March 3 online edition of BBC News, the current drought may be related to global warming. The article cites research published in the journal ‘Science,’ which indicates that global warm-

SITUATION:

An estimated 11.5 million inhabitants of the Horn of Africa are suffering from the effects of a year-long drought. Individuals attempting to survive on three glasses of water per day in heat often exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit have been forced to walk up to 45 miles in search of water or to beg along the roadside. The increasingly desperate conditions have sparked fighting among tribal groups. Firefights between clan members armed with assault rifles have left dozens dead. Nearly a decade of low rainfall has exacerbated famine conditions plaguing much of Africa. But the famine is also compounded by man-made problems, such as underinvestment in rural areas, rapid population growth, political conflict and global warming, which threatens to reduce the supply of available water in Africa by 25 percent by 2100.

restricted access to drinking water. Individuals attempting to survive on three glasses of water per day in heat that often exceeds 100 degrees Fahrenheit have been forced to walk up to 45 miles in search of water or to beg along the roadside.

“The situation is as bad as I can remember,” Somali village elder Abdullahi Maalim said to BBC News. “Some people are dying, and children are drinking their own urine because there is simply no water available for them to drink.”

The increasingly desperate conditions have sparked violence among local groups throughout the region, the March 15 online edition of CBS News reported. Clans have reported stolen livestock, and clashes between clan members armed with assault rifles have left dozens dead. Within the nomadic

though natural disasters have played a major role in Africa’s food shortages, they have been compounded by other problems. According to the Jan. 31 online edition of BBC News, underinvestment in rural areas, rapid population growth, the spread of HIV and AIDS and political conflict have created instability and taken the most productive individuals out of the labor force. Although many organizations are active in providing aid to Africa, some economists and academics said they believe that giving beyond a certain point may do more harm than good, flooding local markets with goods and putting small, sustainable farms out of business.

Director of the United Nations World Food Program James Morris estimates that some 20 million people are being fed by his organiza-

tion will cause changes in rainfall patterns. Areas that receive annual rainfall between 400 mm and 1,000 mm per year are particularly susceptible to excessive drainage problems, which lower the available water supply. When these regions suffer further decreases in rainfall, the results can be disastrous. According to the article, a 10 percent decrease in rainfall in a region that averages 500 mm per year can cut the available supply in half. The changing weather patterns resulting from global warming could reduce the water supply in Africa by 25 percent at the end of the century.

According to the March 15 online edition of BBC News, new rains are expected in the coming weeks, but it is feared that they may be lighter than average.

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Vice President for Social Affairs
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◆ *Treasurer* ◆
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◆ *Senator* ◆
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Will Coggin Meghan McCarthy Campbell Jamieson
Ben Locher

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Residence Life Announces The 2006-2007 Head Staff

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Graduate Complex: Anne Louise Mason

Head Residents

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Jamestown North & South: Ideen Solhtalab
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What's News—

In Business and Finance

Millions Are Facing Monthly Squeeze

Millions of Americans who stretched their finances to buy homes face a painful adjustment as their monthly payments on adjustable-rate mortgages rise.

In the hot housing market of recent years, many households took advantage of “affordability” mortgage loans that hold down payments for an initial period. Now the initial periods on many of these loans are ending, leaving borrowers to face increases in monthly payments of anywhere from 10% to 50%.

More than \$2 trillion of U.S. mortgage debt, or about a quarter of all mortgage loans outstanding, comes up for interest-rate resets in 2006 and 2007, estimates Moody's Economy.com. Most borrowers affected will be able to cope, in some cases by refinancing with new loans. But some may be forced to sell their homes or could lose their homes to foreclosures. A recent study by First American Real Estate Solutions projects that about one in eight households with adjustable-rate mortgages that originated in 2004 and 2005 will default on those loans.

U.S. Mad-Cow Case Is 3rd in 27 Months

A beef cow in Alabama was diagnosed with mad-cow disease, becoming the third U.S. case in 27 months and igniting a difficult search for companions that might also have been exposed to the fatal brain-wasting disease. The U.S. Department of Agriculture disclosed few details about the beef cow, other than that she was probably about 10 years old.

The cow's age is important because it indicates she was likely infected before changes were made to animal-feed rules. Thus, it allows the Bush administration to continue to argue that the prevalence of mad-cow disease in the U.S. is very faint, and most likely fading.

Still, the case is likely to invigorate consumer activists critical of the Bush administration's plans to scale back its mad-cow surveillance program, and to hamstring efforts by the U.S. to persuade former customers such as Japan to reopen their borders to U.S. beef.

Basketball Budgets Soar at Top Schools

When it comes to spending money, college basketball budgets are on a fast break. As a group, 80 of the top college basketball programs, many of which are now in the NCAA Tournament, spent an average of 12% more in the school year 2004-05 than the year before. That was on top of a 7% cost increase the previous year, based on figures submitted by the colleges to the Department of Education. A major cause: the upward spiral in coaches' pay packages.

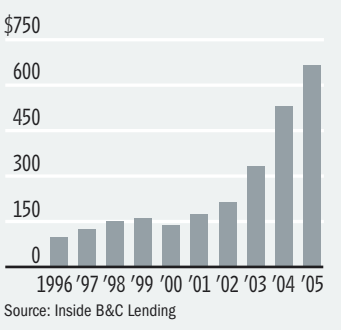
By some measures, even with the rapidly rising costs, college basketball is a healthy business. An estimated 70% of Division I programs operate in the black, a figure that has remained steady since 1993, according to Dan Fulks, a professor at Transylvania University and consultant to the National Collegiate Athletic Association. But if costs continue to outpace revenues—expenses have risen faster for basketball teams in the past two years than ever before, the NCAA estimates—those figures may not be so rosy for much longer.

Publishers Bullish On Barry Bonds

Two books about baseball slugger Barry Bonds are suddenly in a literary slugfest. “Game of Shadows,” by San Francisco Chronicle reporters Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams, burst onto the scene first with an excerpt as the cover story of Sports Illustrated, the venerable weekly magazine with 3.3 million paid subscribers. Its archival, ESPN The Magazine, then quickly rushed out its own Bonds book cover story, excerpted from “Love Me, Hate Me: Barry Bonds and the Mak-

Borrowing Trouble

A surge in subprime lending has expanded the number of people facing the risk of foreclosure. Originations of subprime mortgages in billions of dollars.



ing of an Antihero,” by Jeff Pearlman.

Gotham Books has pushed up the release of “Shadows” to March 23-24 from March 27. Mr. Pearlman's book is scheduled to hit May 30, although HarperCollins is trying to move up the date.

Safety Still an Issue On Inflight Calls

The federal government is considering lifting its ban on the use of cellphones on airline flights. But a new study raises questions over whether that will be safe.

The ban now in effect is the result of researchers' claims that using cellphones on airplanes can interfere with Global Positioning Satellite navigation systems. The calls also can tie up a wireless network's antenna capacity, blocking service for wireless users on the ground.

Some companies, however, are preparing to equip planes with new technology called “pico cell” cellular antennas that will allow as many as 100 cellphones at a time to work without disrupting cell service on the ground. Also, since pico cells are close to the cellphones of passengers on the plane, the phones operate at low power and won't produce interference with instruments, the companies say.

Successful pico cell demonstrations have led the Federal Communications Commission to move toward allowing use of cellphones on airplanes.

However, a recent study by Carnegie Mellon University researchers found that emissions from cellphones and laptops are found in the GPS spectrum and could still cause interference. The researchers believe more study is needed before allowing inflight cellphone calls.

Northwest Raises Aisle Seat Prices

Struggling Northwest Airlines has launched a test program which requires passengers to pay an additional \$15 fee to reserve some of the most desirable coach-class seats on domestic flights. Aisle seats in the front of the cabin or roomier exit rows will be held back and sold for the extra charge.

A spokesman for Northwest, which filed for bankruptcy-court protection in September, says the airline is “definitely looking for opportunities to increase revenue.” He declined to estimate how much the \$15 fee might generate.

Odds & Ends

Colleges across the U.S. were reviewing admissions decisions after the College Board disclosed that 4,000 students who took the SAT last October had incorrectly received lower scores. The company that scans the SAT for the College Board blamed moisture in the answer sheets.

By Jay Hershey

How to contact us:
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AT COLLEGEJOURNAL.COM

- Six tips for acing sales-job interviews
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Rock 'n' Rolling Into China

Rolling Stone Launches A Chinese Edition: No Sex, Drugs, Politics

By GEOFFREY A. FOWLER

HONG KONG—Sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll have always been fertile subjects at Rolling Stone magazine, but Hao Fang, editor of the new Chinese edition, can't print much about the first two. And in China even rock music can be politically sensitive stuff, as the cover of the magazine's first issue illustrates.

Mr. Hao chose an inaugural cover image of Cui Jian, one of the first Chinese musicians to incorporate Western rock into his songs, and a Bob Dylan-like master of lyrics with multiple meanings. Mr. Cui's most famous song, “Nothing to My Name,” was an anthem to students during the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy protests, though it never mentions revolution or protest. After the military crackdown that followed the uprising, Mr. Cui was sometimes treated as a dissident, and he lay low for years.

Despite this back story, the Rolling Stone article avoids mention of Tiananmen or anything political. “Of course, he used to be a controversial person,” says Mr. Hao, 42 years old. “But it's neither in the media's interests nor his interests for now” to talk about that part of his past.

Two Masters

Rolling Stone's China launch this month illustrates the possibilities—and difficulties—of journalism in one of the world's most censored media markets. Mr. Hao and his publishers—a state-owned music publisher and a Hong Kong company that has licensed the title from Rolling Stone publisher Wenner Media—must satisfy Chinese readers, who are looking for edgier content, and the Communist Party, which is looking to rein in dissent. They are two masters who are increasingly at odds.

Magazines are experiencing a commercial renaissance in China,



Rolling Stone's new Chinese edition (packaged with a cap) on sale in Beijing

as consumers with more disposable income turn to glossy monthlies for shopping, entertainment and lifestyle tips. Nielsen Media Research says marketers spent about 23% more, or a total of about \$770 million, on magazine advertising in China last year than in 2004, based on published rate-card figures. Adding to an already crowded market, Advance Publications Inc.'s Vogue launched a Chinese edition last year.

Yet in recent months, Chinese censors have tightened their grip on dissent in the news media and on the Internet. In December, the government sacked the editor of the bold daily Beijing News—which had run a story on a government crackdown on protesting farmers. Then in January, it shut down the highly regarded weekly Freezing Point supplement to the China Youth Daily, which has since reopened with a new editor.

Last year, the government put out several new regulations to exert more control over foreign media in China. It has also impeded the expansion plans of global media companies such as Walt Disney Co., Viacom Inc. and News Corp., which

have been clamoring to establish a presence in the world's biggest market of television viewers.

At the same time, rock and other youth music are coming of age in China, creating the demand for a magazine like Rolling Stone. During China's Cultural Revolution, in the 1960s, love ballads were treated like pornography, and people who were found listening to rock 'n' roll were labeled “devils” and could end up in jail. Since then, China has witnessed a pop-culture explosion. The Internet, international travel and foreign movies have spread information about foreign entertainment and lifestyles across much of the country. Today, China's most successful music stars are pop singers or rockers like Mr. Cui, or style themselves after American rappers and Korean and Japanese R&B crooners.

Rolling Stone's China editor is now at the center of all these changes, both in media and in music. Mr. Hao's Rolling Stone aims to chart China's cultural influences in a way that satisfies increasingly plugged-in readers. The first issue, already selling out in some cities, features an equal mix of Chinese and

Amazon to Offer Online Films

By SARAH MCBRIDE
AND MYLENE MANGALINDAN

Even as it pushes into the online music and book businesses, Amazon.com Inc. is preparing another digital entertainment offering: downloadable movies.

People familiar with the situation say the online retailer is talking with movie studios including Universal Pictures, Paramount and Warner Bros. about making their content available on its site, for both Internet rental and purchase. A service could begin this summer. Amazon declined to comment.

The company is already planning an online music service. Now the movie service, if it comes to fruition, could jump-start legal movie downloads, which haven't taken off despite the growing popularity of online music.

Amazon could also leapfrog iTunes in the high-stakes race to become the premier destination for online studio entertainment. Currently, viewers can pay \$1.99 an episode to download shows like “Lost” or “The Office” from iTunes, but long-form movies aren't available yet.

Studios are considering making movies available on the Amazon service at the same time they come out on DVD, people familiar with the matter say. Some studios would like to encourage online purchase over rental, because the margins are much higher. Studios get 60% to 70% of revenue on online purchases and rentals, but the sticker price on a purchase is much higher.

Neither prices nor titles have been set. But the people familiar with the matter say the strategy will likely include current releases and some older titles.

Other online movie services haven't taken off, in part because of a paucity of titles, and because the services typically don't get the movies until weeks after they appear on DVD. Since consumers can't transfer legally downloaded movies to blank DVDs because of studios' restrictions, it remains difficult for many to figure out how a movie downloaded to a computer can be watched on a television. (The easiest way is to buy the appropriate cable and hook the PC to the TV set.)

None of that seems to be deterring Amazon. “Digital media is very important to us,” Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos says. The company is “not wed to any particular technique or technology. The goal is to serve the customer,” he said.

Staff reporter Nick Wingfield contributed to this article.

FREE SALON SERVICES!

March 24-26, 2006

Marriott Williamsburg

50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, Va.

Nationally-renowned hairstylists will be at the above location for a hairstyling seminar Saturday and Sunday, March 25th and 26th. They will be performing makeoverservices including haircuts, color and highlights. After consultation, approximately 50 lucky people will be selected to receive these services FREE! No previous modeling experience is needed. (Some models may be prestyled Friday night.)

INTERESTED?

Attend a Model Roundup Friday, March 24th at 6:00 P.M. or Saturday, March 25th at 11:00 A.M. in the Marriott Williamsburg lobby.

Résumé looking sparse?

The Flat Hat is looking for advertising reps. Sell ads to local businesses and make money. For more information, e-mail fhads@wm.edu or come to our office in the Campus Center basement Sunday at 5 p.m.

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Reckless disregard

Careful readers will find on this page and the next various editorials addressing the Williamsburg City Council’s actions of the past week, including a column by a student and a response by Williamsburg Mayor Jeanne Zeidler. Of course, our fair city’s mayor does not take the time to grace our pages every week; what, then, is all the proverbial ruckus about?

The careful reader will also note the lead story from page one, in which we report on the city council’s move to allocate itself money — specifically, \$310,000 — to buy the house at 110 Harrison Avenue, as well as their possible plans to take similar action in the future. Apparently, the city council’s strategy is to use the housing authority to purchase the house, renovate it and resell it to an owner under the condition that the new owner not rent the property out to anyone, including students.

While the council’s motives are not immediately clear, it does seem fair to say that the council is taking action to manipulate the normal functioning of the local housing market. The mayor admits in this week’s letter that the council is seeking to “stabilize a balanced neighborhood,” citing the rental portion of the West Williamsburg Heights area — 62 percent — as too high. Why such a proportion should trouble the city council, we are not quite sure, but a goal of such dubious merit, sought through the tax dollars of Williamsburg’s residents and businesses, is enough to trouble any reasonable observer.

A central aspect of Zeidler’s argument is that too many students are forced to live in off-campus residences because of a lack of adequate campus housing. Personally, the editorial board of The Flat Hat knows of very few instances in which students are unable to find suitable campus housing. In our experience, those students who live off campus chose to do so. Even if we grant the mayor’s premise for the present, new student housing is scheduled to open soon on the field formerly known as Barksdale; why is the city council so graciously intervening in the housing market to make sure owners occupy their own residences and students have enough campus dorms? Surely they can find better projects for renovation (the terrible state of disrepair of the houses on Jamestown Road comes to mind).

If nothing else, the city council is guilty of simply atrocious timing. Whether intentionally or not, they have begun a program that will, if taken through its logical progression, do real harm to the ability of students to find living accommodations and legitimate residences, an action that will hamper students’ ability to register to vote in the city. Furthermore, the fact that this action was taken while most students were away strikes us as more than coincidence. Not that they would have consulted us on this, anyway.

Vice mayor and economics chair Clyde Haulman, a proponent of the plan, has expressed concern over the conditions and value of areas dominated by rental properties. While he may not be entirely out in left field on the actual situations in some neighborhoods, this is more likely because these areas have been abandoned by businesses and city officials in favor of catering to wealthy tourists and elites, not because of some inherent defect in rental properties or their occupants. In addition, it doesn’t seem that attracting more owner-oriented — and perhaps wealthier — buyers will actually improve Williamsburg as a whole, but it may serve to further segregate wealthy residents from low-income families and students. Certainly the city’s resources could be better spent improving the conditions and expectations of neglected parts of the town, such as Highland Park, to make the city a more cohesive unit. Regardless of the effect on students, the council’s plan does nothing to address the city’s true crises, like putting a pair of designer sunglasses on a man with leprosy.

If we honestly believed that the mayor, vice mayor or the rest of the council was actually interested in attracting residents to improve all parts of Williamsburg, and not just the parts the tourists see, we might be willing to buy their story about a healthy city and reasonable, mixed-income neighborhoods.

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The happy generation

Are we an apathetic generation? Current, Newsweek Magazine’s college spin-off, recently ran an article debating this point. The first student to weigh in on the issue agreed that we are apathetic, but that we are not entirely at fault for being so. Although those of us who take definitive stands on social issues are in the minority, he argued that some blame must lie with political leaders who ignore us. The second student adamantly disagreed with the charge. She cited several unheralded student protests as evidence for our collective passion.

While both students made interesting arguments, I believe the question itself is misleading. When words such as apathy and activism are tossed around, they are usually evaluated socially. Both the magazine’s editors and the students who wrote the article assumed that questions of apathy could be answered in terms of how we approach poignant social issues. However, a perceptive look at our generation will show that our passion can’t be judged in this manner. The most pressing issues facing us are not social; they are individual. Rather than changing the world, our chief concern is finding a place in it.

The reasons for this are many and varied. Among them is the fact that we are coming of age in a relatively stable social climate. Our grandparents, who are members of what is often called “The Greatest Generation,” were raised on economic depression and war. Our parents lived through and took part in some of the greatest civil rights movements of all time. They worked hard so that we could grow up in a world free of prejudice. Even now, the United States is by no means an ideal place; we are currently involved in a controversial war in Iraq, and issues such as racism and sexual discrimination are still prevalent. However, the national and global crises facing us are not nearly as pervasive as they were for our parents and grandparents. The United States’ place in the global order is seemingly more secure than it was 50 years

ago, and threats to our individual liberties appear less immediate than they did to previous generations.

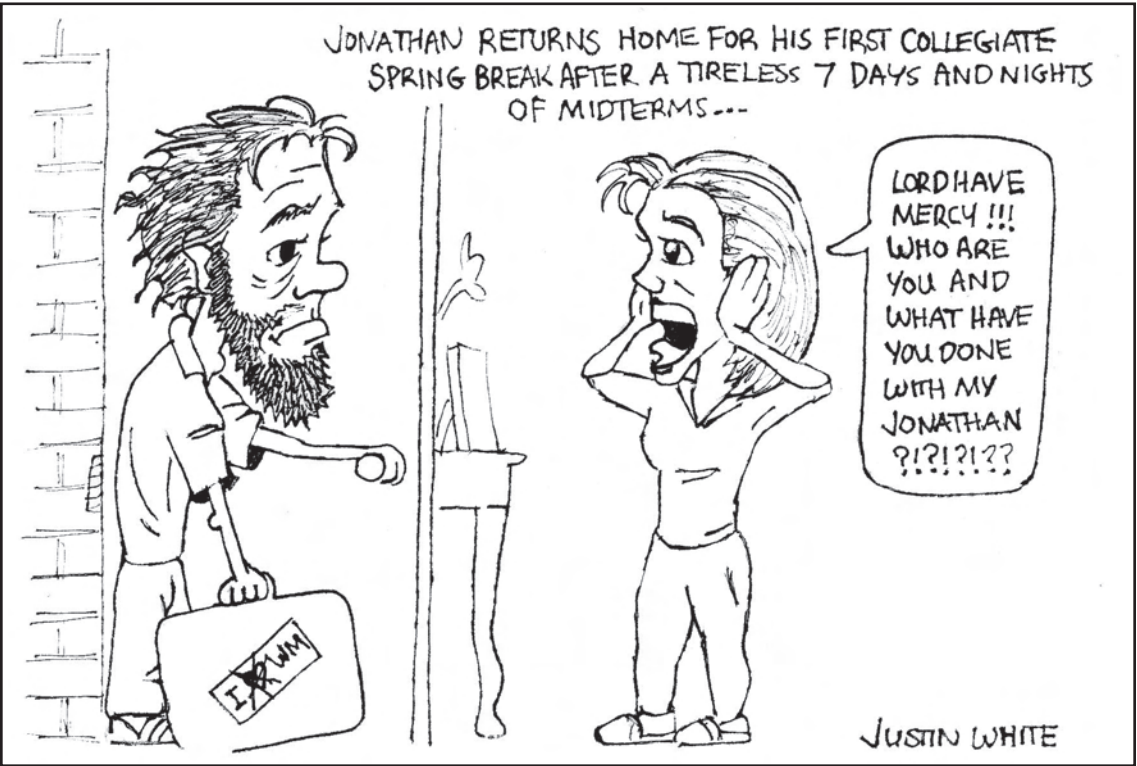
Another reason for our individualistic world view is the explosion of the media. Along with charges of apathy, we are often accused of being a selfish generation, but this too is misleading. We are indeed selfish, but we have become so out of necessity rather than from a breakdown in moral character. Globalization and technological innovations have dramatically increased the availability of information, and being constantly inundated with this information, we have learned to filter it by the degree to which it affects us personally. This is a fact of human nature.

The beauty of this situation is that the stability of our world allows us to choose which information we deem personally meaningful. News and politics are reduced to hobbies. While there are many of us who stay informed on national and global issues, there are more of us who would rather follow sports and entertainment. This fact may strike a foul chord with our elders, but if all things had been considered equal during their youth, would they have been watching CNN or MTV? My guess is the latter.

What this adds up to is an entirely different set of issues facing young people today. With all of our freedom and leisure time, the fundamental question has become how to make our lives fulfilling. Thinkers as far back as Aristotle have prescribed this as the meaning of life, and if one can see through all of the reality television and explicit rap music, they will see the zeal with which we are tackling this problem.

The questions we ask most often of each other are not “what is your stance on abortion?” or “do you support the war?” but “what are you going to do with your life?” Far more than merely a question of vocational interest, this is an existential inquiry into how you plan to make yourself happy. We all must answer this, and the way we do so will determine our historic legacy. For better or worse, we are the Happy Generation.

Andrew Hale is a senior at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.



While you were out

If you were not reading Williamsburg newspapers over break, you might have missed the motion proposed by Vice-Mayor Clyde Haulman. Its purpose is to get the city council to buy homes located near the College campus, then resell them under the condition that the buyers live in the home and not rent it out. What does this mean? Say goodbye to the rental properties close to the College.

I find this odd. Clyde Haulman is not only the vice-mayor, but also the chair of the economics department. Therefore, he must have known that students were gone for spring break last week and that his proposal was directed toward students. Shouldn’t students have the chance to respond to it? Was this motion timed to be passed while students were unable to stop it? These are lovely questions, and I look forward to getting the answers.

Haulman states that “restoring the former and intended residential nature of these neighborhoods is essential to attracting more permanent residents to the city,” according to the March 7 edition of the Daily Press. I find that bizarre as well. The city cited one of the neighborhoods as being 64 percent renter-occupied. Did this happen overnight? Did this even happen in the past decade? I wonder exactly how “former” we have to go to find a time when these neighborhoods had a minority of renters. Sadly, I could not find any statistics, but common sense tells me that in a college that has been around since 1699 (when the Wren Building was completed), some of those neighborhoods formed close to the College might have been formed due to student need. It would surprise me greatly if this was not the case.

Yes, student renters cause an increase in police complaints and decreased property value. Williamsburg has been a college town for 300 years; one would think that they would have learned that college students are not

the most well-behaved people in the world. I attribute it to hormones. Sorry, but if you live in a college town, you might have to learn to accept this little fact of life.

So, if the neighborhoods have had significant numbers of transient students living in them for a significant period of time, Haulman’s justification does not make sense. And since the College has been here for a while, the argument that student renters decrease property value and increase police patrol makes some sense, but it is ever so slightly unreasonable. Judging by the time he made the proposal, he seemed to make a concerted effort to have the measure escape student notice. This evidence, combined with a choice of paranoia, cynicism, or perhaps resigned, dejected realism leads a person to think, “Williamsburg doesn’t like us.”

Indeed, perhaps Williamsburg would be happier without the College. Haulman’s measure, more than anything in recent memory, sends the blaring message that the city does not welcome students. This is sad. This is especially sad, because we are not leaving. To be honest, I am extraordinarily pissed that anyone would propose that College students who move off campus by choice or by necessity (lottery number 5,874, thank you) should live in James City County, or even farther away (perhaps we should just live at home and commute several hours each day).

Being the type of person that I am, I am not content to vent my anger and walk away. I want to scare the city council. I want them to realize that measures like this will mean that they will sit on the council for, ironically, about as long as the students live in those houses. The best way to do this is to get David Sievers elected. Go to www.voteinwilliamsburg.com and register in Williamsburg to vote. E-mail seiver@wm.edu and volunteer to help his campaign. Go to the fundraiser for Sievers tomorrow at the Cornerstone Grill at 8 p.m. Do not let Haulman and the city council kick us out of our city. Help David Sievers win, and let them know that if they try to get rid of us, we’ll return the favor.

Ryan Jackson is a freshman at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

Victims of circumstance

Sometimes I wonder how much of who we are, the people we grow to become, is based on learned behaviors, the things we are taught by the people who move through our lives, changing it and affecting it as they inevitably do.

How much is biologically programmed, genetically inherited?

Last September, terrorist attacks on the Russian school of Beslan took the lives of 177 children. There are dolls hanging from poles over many of their graves to remember their innocence and their youth. Parents were left without children, siblings and friends were lost. To experience what these children experienced, as pure and impressionable as children are, I have to wonder, how does an event like the terrorist takeover affect the surviving children? Will they grow as they had been, shaken but unchanged, or are they victims of circumstance?

Sometimes I wonder about fear. Most of the fears in my life are mere insecurities about success, relationships or money. My own mortality is not at the top of my list. My fears are but small concerns compared to the fears of some. Living in Turkey during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, I remember feeling so detached from the people on the television screen — people from my home who found out that day the true meaning of fear, not knowing whether a loved one was alive, forgetting to do anything but search through lists of names.

It’s frightening how easily people can numb themselves to the dangers of everyday life. There were times when we were on high alert overseas and days when the armed guard who rode with us on our bus would step off to watch us get on and off safely. We would go through bomb checks and drills regularly. It never really phased me. It never became real. I don’t live my life as though I could

die today.

For me, living is a lot of tomorrows — what I can accomplish then that I couldn’t today, who I will meet and talk to, the opportunities that will arise. We look to the future in a different way than those Beslan children. We have a safer past.

I began all this wondering recently after the Russian department screened an HBO documentary following a brief lecture by speaker Lisa Aronson. She spoke of coordinated efforts to train psychosocial volunteers working with Beslan survivors. She is one of many pioneers who sees the importance of reaching out to tragedy’s youth. The children’s stories were heartbreaking. The boy of one dead man spoke of wanting to avenge his father by taking a knife and slitting the terrorists’ throats with his own hands. He was 10 years old.

Not all the children spoke with such sorrow. Some spoke with hope, of a “new Beslan” being built from the destruction of the old. There was a light in these children, and many of them referred to their dead friends in heaven with God. But one little girl used words I won’t soon forget: “If I die, I die,” she said. “I don’t care.” There was an air of aloofness about her when she said this, so expressionless. Imagine being so young and knowing sorrow so deep that death holds little meaning. If death holds so little meaning, then neither does life.

I wonder what we will do with the comforts we’ve been given, I wonder. What will we do with the darkness in our pasts? What will become of the Beslan children? What legacy will they leave behind? To crawl out from the dark and become stronger takes hope and strength and will.

There are those who dedicate themselves to ensure that some means are taken to bring these children back to life. Aronson is one, but there are others. With all we have, all we’ve been given, I hope we can find some way to give to those who have had so much taken away.

Ashley Braun is a sophomore at the College. Her views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.



Andrew Hale



Ashley Braun

Privatization: a winning choice

At Charter Day, Gov. Tim Kaine received an honorary degree and promised more money for higher education. He also warned that the magnitude of the commonwealth’s contribution would depend upon how



Alan Meese

Virginia pays for planned increases in transportation spending. Kaine warned that reliance upon general fund revenues to pay for such improvements would divert funds that might otherwise flow to higher education. The solution, Kaine concluded, was another tax increase, or, as he euphemistically put it, “revenue sources that are unique to transportation.” The message was not subtle: if you want Virginia to keep its promises to the College, support further state raids on private wealth.

There is, however, another way both to increase the College’s budget and free up additional spending for transportation, without raising taxes. Virginia could privatize the College and use the resulting windfall to finance a billion dollars in new road construction.

Virginia appropriates about \$42 million per year to the College, around 20 percent of the College’s overall budget. Kaine and others in Richmond have promised to increase this figure. Under privatization, the commonwealth would transfer the College to a non-profit corporation, similar to that which owns other private colleges. In return, the commonwealth could “walk away” from any obligation to fund the College, freeing up more than \$42 million per year.

While \$42 million may not sound like much, this perpetual, annual and rising savings could pay the interest on a \$1 billion bond referendum at current interest rates for tax exempt debt. At maturity, the commonwealth could refinance the bonds, relying again upon the expenditures foregone to pay interest on the new debt.

Would the College also prosper? Absolutely. Privatization would bring freedom over our own destiny. With this freedom, the College could alter the mix of in-state and out-of-state students, improving the quality of the student body and enhancing the tuition revenue. The College could also increase the tuition charged for Virginia residents to match that charged

for non-Virginians. Even then, the total cost of attending the College (tuition, fees, room and board) would be 25 percent less than the cost of Vanderbilt, Duke or Dartmouth.

Revenue generated by tuition increases would amount to about \$55 million annually, more than enough to offset the lost appropriation from the commonwealth. Increases at the graduate and professional schools could generate even more money. The College could set aside several million dollars for need-based aid and still have enough left over to enhance the academic program, making the College even more attractive to prospective students and setting the stage for additional tuition hikes. To be sure, some Virginians would pay higher tuition than they do now, but most can afford it and are receiving an unwarranted windfall from taxpayers under the current system.

Privatization would also boost private giving. Potential donors would not fear that sudden state cuts would offset the beneficial impact of their gifts. At the same time, a self-reliant College could forswear the lobbying that consumes so much time and energy of our president and other administrators. Freed of the need to beseech Richmond for tax dollars, College officials could devote more time to cultivating alumni who wish to support the College out of altruistic motives.

At the same time, the College could restore some of the academic integrity that has been lost to politics. We would not have to give every governor an honorary degree or conjure up degrees in “public service” to flatter politicians who call for more state largesse. Nor would we have to support higher taxes, as we did during the Warner administration. We would not have to listen to state requests to expand our enrollment, or watch helplessly as others play politics with the composition of our Board of Visitors. Finally, the College could forswear such tasks as “economic development,” focusing its energies on what it does best — teaching and research.

Privatization would be a “win-win” for Virginia and the College. Taxpayers would receive better roads and the College would prosper. We might even become great.

Alan Meese is the Ball Professor of Law at the College’s Marshall-Wythe School of Law. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

Learning curve

While recent campus issues such as the right of alleged student rapists to hire lawyers to speak at their judicial council hearings and the right of students to bring a sex worker’s art show to campus are clearly



Rachel Metz

dissimilar, they share a common theme: their spokespeople are white, Christian men. Is this trend in activism indicative of disproportionately high levels of discrimination toward white male, Christian students? Do they fight more for student rights because theirs are being violated more than those of others?

On the contrary, their privileged positions allow them to work for student rights that rarely affect most members of the College community, rather than for the more pervasive issues that face many students on a day-to-day basis.

While black students at the College face outright hostility from a few small-minded students, most students are tolerant of their peers of different backgrounds. Even those with the best intentions, however, can inadvertently burden minority students by asking questions that make tokens out of them. Some students are so eager to learn about differences that they treat minority students as curiosities rather than people. Acknowledging differences does not require fixating on them, which dehumanizes minority students by not allowing them to express the many facets of their personalities. When asking a question, try to be considerate and put yourself in the student’s shoes. Also consider whether you just as easily could obtain an answer from Wikipedia. If the question turns someone into a token representative of a large group, please realize that minority students are here to be students; their role as cultural ambassadors is secondary.

Even those who avoid this pitfall may unintentionally act in a culturally insensitive manner, which is a perfectly normal part of learning about different people.

Differences in world views make some questions painful to answer and others simply moot points. Unfortunately, minority students have to deal with the ignorance of the well-meaning majority as the latter move along their learning curve. Many seek refuge by spending time with those who are already familiar with their area of (perceived) expertise. Some majority students ask, “Why are all the black kids sitting together in the Caf?” not understanding that educating one’s peers is emotionally tiring — minority students need a break every once in a while. This is not to say that students in the racial majority should avoid befriending minority students or stop asking them questions. Please, continue to do so. But also understand that spending time in group-specific spaces is a self-protective measure that neither invalidates time spent in the “mainstream” nor precludes having white, Christian friends.

Students in ethnic and religious minorities are confronted daily by issues not faced by majority students and therefore lack the privilege of choosing the topics that will occupy their time. This makes them less likely to take on students’ rights issues that impact their lives only sporadically, if at all. Activism is also a gendered activity; white, Christian women rarely participate alongside their male counterparts. Why? In popular culture, assertive women are often portrayed as witches (e.g. Hillary Clinton). On campus, women often have a difficult time being heard, physically and otherwise. I have heard men express ideas five minutes after women do so and then receive the credit. Men are not trying to shut out female voices — they, as well as many women, are oblivious to this dynamic. That does not change the fact that gender privileges men and leaves women, like religious and ethnic minorities, less likely to fight vocally for students’ rights.

With women trained to keep quiet and minority students busy with other, more pressing issues, it is no surprise that the most vocal advocates of student rights on campus are white, Christian men.

Rachel Metz is a junior at the College. Her views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

Letters to the Editor

Off-campus options threatened

To the Editor:

Last week Clyde Haulman, vice mayor of Williamsburg and our own economics department chair, revealed a proposal that would make it more difficult for students to find affordable housing near campus.

As the March 7 edition of the Daily Press describes it, the city would take out loans, buy local rental properties and then resell them, requiring that the new owners occupy, and not rent out, their homes. Though it remains unclear if Haulman merely intends to pad local property values or to create new revenue for the city, the measure is obviously hostile toward students at the College, young faculty and other College staff.

All students deserve the right to choose whether to live on or off campus (despite presently scarce off-campus options). Haulman’s plan would effectively rob students of such freedoms, by either corraling students into college housing or forcing them — along with all other residents who cannot buy property but remain committed voters — to commute.

The recent proposal masks a program of classism and ageism that could eliminate any possibility for the kind of diverse, mixed-income neighborhoods that benefit city and college environments everywhere. Sadly, it seems worth asking if we can depend on the College’s administration to protect our best interests in this matter.

Equally troubling is that any plan seeking to end off-campus student residency reduces the small number of students granted voting rights in Williamsburg; it amounts to little more than pre-emptive gerrymandering. As a faculty member and council representative, it seems Haulman has decided that his constituents are only those who can afford to live in his Williamsburg, and certainly not the students he teaches.

Please remind city council that you are a contributing member of the community by calling 229-8898. If you can, please register to vote for the council election this May.

—Brian Piper, grad student

Council considers city’s needs

To the Editor:

Brian Piper was kind enough to send me a copy of his letter to the editor about the Williamsburg City Council. I wish he had contacted me first to talk about the Daily Press article from March 7. The headline was very misleading. Piper’s attack on Vice Mayor Haulman was off the mark.

The city council is determined to maintain diverse, mixed-income neighborhoods, because we see that as a benefit to the community and to the College, just as the author does. Doing this is a challenge, particularly in the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the campus, because the student body has grown in the last decade while the residential opportunities on the campus have not.

The West Williamsburg Heights neighborhood, in which the city has agreed to support our Redevelopment and Housing Authority in the purchase, renovation and resale for owner occupancy of one home, is now 62 percent rental property. Our actions are intended to stabilize a balanced neighborhood, not to end off-campus residency for students.

The City of Williamsburg has had students of the College living in the community’s neighborhoods for centuries. It is a part of the character of this community that we all value.

However, many students are forced to seek living arrangements off campus not because it is their choice, but because there is a shortage on campus. Our goal is to work with the College to provide more residential opportunities on campus so those students who wish to live in college housing have that opportunity, and those who wish to live in the city have strong, healthy, safe neighborhoods to welcome them.

—Jeanne Zeidler, mayor of Williamsburg

Violence not a justified reaction

To the Editor:

I agreed with one statement in Junaid Ahmad’s column in the Feb. 17 edition of The Flat Hat regarding the recent cartoon controversy. The row over the cartoons depicting Muhammad *does* reveal as much about the West as it does about the Muslim world. I listened with anger as Bill Clinton condemned the cartoons without mentioning the cartoonist’s right to draw them and the newspaper’s right to publish them. This has been the standard response from many Western leaders: condemn the cartoons without upholding the right to free speech.

Lest the columnist say that I am “brushing off any reaction to the cartoon as an intolerant Muslim mindset,” let me state that the cartoons were offensive, and Muslims and others had every right to be offended and let the world know that they were offended.

However, a fatwa was issued by a Muslim cleric calling for the cartoonist’s beheading. An embassy was burned, and others were attacked. There have been protests in a “handful” of nations — Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Somalia, Indonesia, Thailand, Gaza — where the protesters numbered in the thousands and there were clashes between authorities and protesters.

The columnist asks if we can imagine offensive depictions of Western religious figures being published in mainstream publications. The answer is yes. The difference is that few Christian or Jewish leaders would call for the death of the cartoonist who drew them.

The question here is not, “were the cartoons offensive?” The question is, “does a newspaper

have the right to print what it wishes, no matter how offensive, without the threat of violence?” The fact that many Western leaders, in trying to avoid offense, have refused to condemn the burning of embassies and the fatwa against the cartoonist is appalling. *It is* just a cartoon. What cartoon is worth killing over?

—Hilary Eckberg, grad student

Bright future ahead for stem cell research

To the Editor:

In his column in the Feb. 24 issue of The Flat Hat, Danny Cogut makes the erroneous assertion that with Dr. Hwang Woo-Suk’s disgrace, embryonic stem cell research is “back to square one.” To use a turn of phrase from his own article, perhaps the columnist didn’t get the memo about the plethora of research that has been accomplished outside of South Korea.

This January, for instance, scientists in Wisconsin succeeded in defining the exact growth requirements for cultured embryonic stem cells, eliminating the need for using animal serums (such as bovine albumin) which could pass on unknown viruses and prions. This is a landmark achievement toward the use of embryonic stem cells in a clinical setting. This is especially important because all current federally approved and funded lines have been tainted with animal byproducts at some point during their derivation.

The columnist is right to point out the virtues of adult stem cells, but these cells are not as pluripotent as embryonic stem cells, and many tissues, such as those of the heart, seem to lack their own adult stem cell reservoir. This is in contrast to skin and other organs, which are constantly undergoing mitosis to maintain their tissues.

The columnist is absolutely wrong to assert or imply in any way that research efforts with human embryonic stem cells should be abandoned. His uninformed views cast an unfair light on the accomplishments of scientists around the world.

—Alexander Stover, ’05
Kelsey M. Albert, ’04

Editorial response insufficient

To the Editor:

I welcome The Flat Hat’s response to criticism of “Behind Closed Doors” but feel that it fails to address adequately the many valid concerns some students have about the column.

Traditional morality has many benefits to the individual and to society. Preserving the mystery and sanctity of sex strengthens marriages and encourages couples to engage in healthy sexual behavior.

While freedom of speech is a very important value, sexual and moral welfare sometimes takes precedence. Publishers have an obligation to society to control the publication of obscene and socially damaging material.

As a student publication, The Flat Hat has an additional responsibility to reflect accurately the beliefs and desires of the campus community. It is one thing for a privately owned newspaper to print an editorial cartoon. It is something else for a student publication to distribute arguably obscene material.

The editorial board asserts that challenging traditional views of sexuality and providing education about sexuality provides many benefits to the community. Let’s be honest here. The column provides very little information about sexual health and has negligible educational value.

A column that actually provided information about STIs and the other dangers of sexuality might be of great benefit to the campus community. The current column, however, seldom addresses these issues and, in fact, encourages attitudes that lead to dangerous sexual behavior.

Since sexual assault is a very real problem on our campus, I hope that the editors of The Flat Hat will re-examine their position on the column and work with the many students who wish to establish a culture of sexual responsibility here at the College.

—Robert Marmorstein, grad student

Anatomical considerations

To the Editor:

While I appreciate much of philosophy professor George Harris’s analysis in the Feb. 10 edition of The Flat Hat of male-as-protector sexism that can influence discussions of rape and sexual assault, his cut-and-dry method of explaining assault situations was rather unnerving.

I do understand his desire to establish a general standard to be applied equally to both parties in all situations, but I really don’t find that feasible. To talk about rape and sexual assault requires certain frankness, and if we assume a situation involves heterosexual intercourse, we must define it: traditional sex between a man and woman entails the male penis penetrating the female vagina.

Since this is the specific act to which rape and sexual assault cases usually pertain, it is not unfair to hold a male responsible, even if both parties were intoxicated. If a woman penetrated a man in a similar situation, I would hold the same logic. In my mind, the act of penetration involves consent on the part of the person penetrating, whereas being penetrated certainly does not necessarily involve such consent.

Though I do not hold essentialism as the proper way to view issues of gender, I think it is incredibly important to take into consideration the actual biological acts of vaginal, oral and anal sex.

—Devan Barber, ’08

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This “7th Grader” and film major tells tales of winning \$800 and crank phone calls to his own employer.
See That Guy, page 11.

Local chef evokes ‘serious’ casual French dining



MIKE HARPER • THE FLAT HAT

Blue Talon head chef David Everett, a former tennis pro, serves up an ace in the kitchen.

BY ALEX ELY
FLAT HAT ASST VARIETY EDITOR

In the heart of Colonial Williamsburg, at 420 Prince George St., just removed from the tourist families and overpriced commodities of DoG Street, lies the Blue Talon Bistro, a restaurant that has saught a reputation for wide and rare variety of food and wines, coupled with a n ambitious approach to dining and service. Dubbed “serious comfort food” by the Bistro’s co-owners Adam Steely and David Everett, the Blue Talon’s approach to dining is modeled after the unique quality and styles of dishes at a fancy French restaurant with the casual, social atmosphere of a neighborhood bistro. These are the reasons that Everett and Steely cite for the Talon’s wide range of clientele, which includes students, locals and the occasional group of tourists.

The originality and personality behind the restaurant can be attributed to its two co-owners, who met several years ago and opened the Blue Talon Sept. 2004. According to the Bistro’s website, www.bluetalombistro.com, Everett, who attended college in Florida and spent several of his teenage years playing tennis professionally while simultaneously developing his skills as a masterful culinary artist, is now the chef at the Blue Talon. Everett has been the recipient of numerous accolades and awards, including some of the most prestigious recognitions in the culinary industry. He has worked closely with famous contemporary

chefs, and, according to the Blue Talon’s website, has been featured in several major food publications, including Gourmet Magazine, Culinary Trends, The New York Times and The Washington Post, just to name a few.

While serving as the executive chef at the Dining Room at Ford’s Colony, Everett met Steely, a Virginia native and graduate of the University of Virginia who had gained recognition for his work at

various restaurants, most notably with wine collections. According to Everett, the two had been looking for a different project after several years of working together at Ford’s Colony.

“We got connected with the right people in Colonial Williamsburg, and we’ve really loved the location,” Everett said. Steely added that the co-owners “were very happy with the reception by students and locals, although it took a little while to get going because you have to get the word out.”

While some visitors may be thrown off by the contrasting styles, the “serious comfort” idea is manifested in the environment and décor of the restaurant.

“We think it appeals to many people, including the college crowd, because it’s a more relaxed atmosphere,” Steely said. “That’s the reason our waiters are wearing blue jeans; there is no dress code. If you walk into a really fancy restaurant and your waiter is wearing a tuxedo, even if he tells you that the restaurant doesn’t have a dress code, the implication remains that there is one.”

The Blue Talon’s staff also sport classy dress shirts to compliment the jeans, another example of the fusion of styles that the Blue Talon seeks.

The Blue Talon’s décor also serves as an attention-grabber, including several statues and pictures of chickens, as well as a large flat-screen TV behind the bar that constantly shows a variety of older, instructional cooking videos.

“It’s mostly just culinary entertainment, and it’s there to make you smile and compliment the dining experience,” Steely said. “The videos are all older and more

traditional, and feature famous chefs such as Julia Childs; there’s no modern shows from the food channel or anything like that.”

Steely and Everett drew upon their experiences not just as restaurant professionals, but also as patrons. “Who really wants to come into a restaurant and watch ‘Sportscenter’ or CNN? I know that when I eat at those kinds of restaurants, I get distracted so easily,” Everett said. “We don’t even have a TV signal, just a video player, so we’ve toyed with the idea of taping old sports games and shows. That way, when people come in and ask us to put the game on, we can say ‘sure’ and pop in a tape of Super Bowl I or the 1965 Wimbledon championships.”

The most notable feature of the bistro, and indeed the most fitting, is the statues of chickens. The bistro gets its name from traditional butcher shops in France, where chickens with blue feet, known as Bresse chickens, have always been the prize bird of French poultry cuisine.

“What’s funny about the term is that the shops couldn’t label them as ‘Bresse chickens’ unless they underwent expensive, rigorous government inspections and regulations. The ones that had not, even though they were the same type of chicken, were referred to as ‘blue talon chickens”’ Everett said. “So the blue talons were kind of a knock off, and that’s the joke behind it that we took as our name.”

As for the décor, the owners were quick to point out that the restaurant wasn’t always overpopulated with statues and other objects. “It certainly didn’t start out with all

See Bistro + page 11



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UCAB hosts ‘Insomniac’ Dave Attell

BY LAURA ALLEN
THE FLAT HAT

Comedian Dave Attell will perform his stand up routine at William and Mary Hall March 23.

The event is being hosted by University Center Activities Board, and comedy chair Kristen Hoffman said they have been thinking of booking Attell for a couple of years now.

“This year we just decided to go big,” Hoffman said. “He has been around for a long time and is labeled one of the top stand-up comedians in the country, so it’s cool that we actually get to bring somebody that big here.”

A New York native, Attell entered the comedy scene in the late 80s doing stand up gigs at small-scale bars and clubs across the city. From there, he worked his way up through the entertainment business, touring the country and acquiring a strong fan base.

Attell’s biggest career achievement came in 2001 with the creation of his own TV show. Airing on Comedy Central, “Insomniac with Dave Attell” documents his journey from one U.S. city to the next as he investigates night-life all over the country. His show has been described in a Maxim interview as being offensive in all the right places, and Dave himself describes it as “a cross between Girls Gone Wild and Cops.”

Attell is certainly known for the wide range of offensive topics he includes as material for his stand-up gigs. Sex, late-night partying and alcohol are a few of the subjects on which he focuses. His ability to make light of something that could be really offensive is possibly Attell’s best quality.

When asked how she thinks the College crowd will react, Hoffman was optimistic. “We put on our publicity ‘adult humor and content’ because it can be vulgar, but he’s very funny and can appeal to lots of different crowds,” she said.

The College has hosted a number of comedians in the past, but members of the UCAB said they hope that this will be its biggest event yet. They recommend that students buy tickets before the show, which are on sale now at the box office at the University Center weekdays during lunch and dinner hours. They will also be sold at the show. The price is \$15 for students and \$25 for the public.



MIKE HARPER • THE FLAT HAT

One-man-band, local musician Scott Varney to play Aromas

BY JOHN BRAME
THE FLAT HAT

One-man band and local favorite Scott Varney will bring his trademark laid-back funk music to Aromas on Prince George St tonight. The free show runs from 8 to 10:30 p.m.

Varney is his own band. He plays solo on his six-string bass, sings and pounds on a variety of percussive instruments. He’s famed locally for his technique of electronically looping his playing to create a lush and multi-layered sound. This unusual trick was adopted from nationally touring musician and fellow Virginian Keller Williams. Varney has written a large base of original material but also enjoys playing a range of covers.

Born in Rhode Island, Varney has spent most of his life in this section of Virginia. He lived in Norfolk and went to York High School in York County. He has spent the last seven years in Williamsburg, and he currently lives here with his wife and two — soon to be three — children.

Varney is a regular at Aromas and usually plays there once a month. Dave Burchett, manager of Aromas, said Varney is one of his favorite musicians that performs there.

When asked to describe his music, Varney responded, “Alternative, folk, funk, jazz. Imagine Ani DiFranco, Bobby McFerrin and Stanley Clarke all mixed up. It’s very laid back with a down home feel, all with a positive message and upbeat sound.”

Varney has played bass since he was 14 years old. Since then, he has played with punk rock bands, jazz bands, jam bands and hard-core bands.

“The solo project came about after having band after band fall apart and not wanting to have to depend on anyone else to play music,” Varney said. “I was writing a lot of instrumental stuff on the bass, and around that time went to see a Keller Williams show. This guy was up there looping all these instruments, creating this ‘one man band.’ I thought, ‘I could do this with the music I have.’”

According to Varney’s website, his 2004 debut CD, “The Child’s Eye” was produced by John Morand, who has also recorded for Joan Osborne and Carbon Leaf. Just like his live shows, Varney contributed all the instrumentation and vocals on the record.

In his live performances, Varney covers songs by the Grateful Dead, Van Morrison, Phish, the Beatles, Sublime, Radiohead, Stevie Wonder and others, according to soncibids.com. “[He] puts a twist to songs you may already know,” Burchett said.

Listeners frequently remark on the positive attitude in Varney’s music. “Lyrically, I definitely try to convey a very positive message. I try to find the beauty in everything and express it through my music,” Varney said. “In one song, I try to view the world from a little child’s perspective; in another one, I’m looking at life from the point of view of a ladybug who just doesn’t quite fit in. I like to write about those little moments that just seem to put a

See Varney + page 10

Tips on judging from serial judger: sensitivity, criticism, T-shirts

CONFUSION CORNER



Charlotte Savino

Returning from spring break brings waves of disappointment as I face round two of midterms and a fresh onslaught of guilt. While I spent my week at home watching daytime television and single-handedly pumping up the New York economy, many students were hard at work making a difference and meeting new people on service trips. Suddenly, I can’t look back on my restful vacation with happiness; I am reduced to a selfish and lazy college student, typical, nay, dull and normal. The only thing that lets me justify my lethargy is the fact that my behavior would be acceptable in a less virtue-competitive environment. Still, now that I’ve lost the vacation-comparing contest, facing the academic rigors of post-break midterms is a new challenge in which I can potentially win out. Whether it’s moral rectitude, volunteering or making the grade, guilt is a huge motivator, especially in this self-selecting group of uber-involved students.

Academic competition is easy enough to

swallow; there are numbers and points and curving, all of which make mathematical sense in comparing one student to another. But looking around and judging my worth against my peers, I can’t help but see my own self-perception being scaled relative to others. Is personal merit graded on a curve?

Summer jobs create a false indicator of worth as students flood internship markets and seniors scramble for jobs in the real world. As I go forth into a sea of rejection, I can already see myself conflating hiring practices with personal judgment. How many lunch tables do I have to approach before the cool human resource people let me sit with them?

I’m not going to lie, I’m a serial judger, but only in the most superficial of senses. Everyone is aware of their body type, skin conditions and bizarre hair growth, but who sets the bar on values? Why am I made to feel impotent and out of control simply because my resume fell to

the bottom of the pile? At least that judgment is hidden in the dark cubicles of a far-away firm; when students make pointed moral judgments, the connection cannot be compartmentalized.

Whether it’s a hallmate’s look of disgust as you stumble home on a weeknight or a friend’s glare of horror as you divulge your “number” — who’s to dictate what is normal for a peer, especially a college student? The school had an amazing response to the “Gay? Fine by me” shirts, and part of me wants more open minds on campus. Perhaps: “Atheist? Fine by me,” “Unaffiliated? Fine by me,” “Sexually exploring? Fine by me.” These adjectives seem like non-issues until somehow an article that touted “facts” and supposedly was held to journalistic standards tried to use a rape victim’s previous sexual activities to discredit her morality and character.

While students finish out the year and look toward their future growth — either in continued

years at school or in the career world — nobody deserves to have an external source provide character analysis. There will be plenty of opportunities for egos and virtues to come into question; at this point in time, when identities are so fragile and new, no one has the right to nip a trait or an experience in the bud. Keeping friends safe and self-aware is part of responsible friendships, offering moral commentary is not. Putting the kibosh on a roommate purchasing jorts — always a good idea. Calling her a whore for wearing a short skirt and a tube top — not so much.

Safety and well-being are important — as a community we have a responsibility to our friends and neighbors — but outside of that limited arena, stick with judging fashion decisions and hair cuts, they’re a little further removed from the soul.

Charlotte Savino is a Confusion Corner columnist for The Flat Hat. Drop.

Variety Calendar

Highlights of the week

— compiled by jeff dooley

Ewell Concert Series

♦ Come see faculty members Susan Via on the violin and Christine Niehaus on the piano perform as part of the Ewell Concert Series March 23 at 8 p.m. in the Ewell Recital Hall. The duo will be performing music by Cesar Franck, Sergei Prokofiev and Amy Beach.

To have an event printed in the Variety Calendar, call x3281 before 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Area concerts

♦ As always, there are a number of great concerts within driving distance this coming week. If you aren't going to be able to make it to see Mute Math tonight, there are a couple of other shows of interest. Motion City Soundtrack plays tonight at the NorVa nightclub in Norfolk, Va. with The Matches, The Format and Men, Women and Children. Doors open at 6 p.m. If you can't see Motion City tonight, they are playing again with the same opening bands at the 9:30 nightclub in Washington, D.C. Sunday, March 19. Doors for that show open at 5:30 p.m. Also tonight, Long Beach Shortbus plays at Alley Katz in Richmond, Va. Matt Pond PA, just weeks away from their performance at the College, plays with Youth Group at the 9:30 Club tomorrow night. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The NorVa hosts Relient K March 21, with The Rocket Summer and Maxeen opening. Doors open at 6 p.m.

In a surprise historical twist, Harry Truman decided to drop the “L-Bomb” on Japan instead of the “A-Bomb.”



Hulabaloo

By Nate Loehrke

Horoscopes



Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20
This recent heat wave has caught everybody off guard. Loose, flowing clothing is a must. Oh, and if you've got a slip-and-slide, bust it out.



Aries: March 21 - April 19
Don't let yourself get suckered into wearing green just because it's St. Patrick's Day. The color of one's clothes should be a personal decision.



Taurus: April 20 - May 20
Speaking of St. Patty's Day, wouldn't it be great if we poured dye into the Crim Dell, making it a disgusting, green color? Oh, wait.



Gemini: May 21 - June 21
But seriously folks, it's St. Patrick's Day. Let's be reasonable here. Take a page out of the Irish's book and celebrate in moderation.



Cancer: June 22 - July 22
What do you call a party that's not yours? Nacho party. That joke's a lot better said out loud. But speaking of nacho parties, you should have one.



Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22
What's funny about air conditioners, you ask? Not much. But if you ever meet an A/C repair man, ask him for a story. You'll be in for a treat.



Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
You can save a lot of money on groceries by buying store-brand items. The extra money you save can be put toward an oscillating fan. Why is it so hot?



Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
Well, I hope your spring break was fun, because now there's a warrant out for your arrest. Sounds like a name change is in order.



Scorpio: Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
I'd advise against wearing Leprechaun outfits this St. Patrick's Day. If you see somebody else in one, it'll be awkward. Plus, it's 100 degrees outside.



Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
Just because spring break has passed doesn't mean it's OK to wear that Hawaiian shirt of yours. It's not that time yet.



Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
Pretending it's your b-day to get free desserts is more than just a fad. It's here to stay. But then again, that's what they said about “The Weakest Link.”



Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
You're going to have a great year. That goes for all you signs. Special thanks to William Shatner and the Bush administration.

..... compiled by jeff dooley

VARNEY

FROM PAGE 9

smile on my face. The music has to move; it has to make me want to either dance, smile or get up and do something ... anything.”

Burchett said that the music will not be so loud as to inhibit conversation.

“It's not so loud you can't talk to the person across from you,” he said. “It's wonderful.”

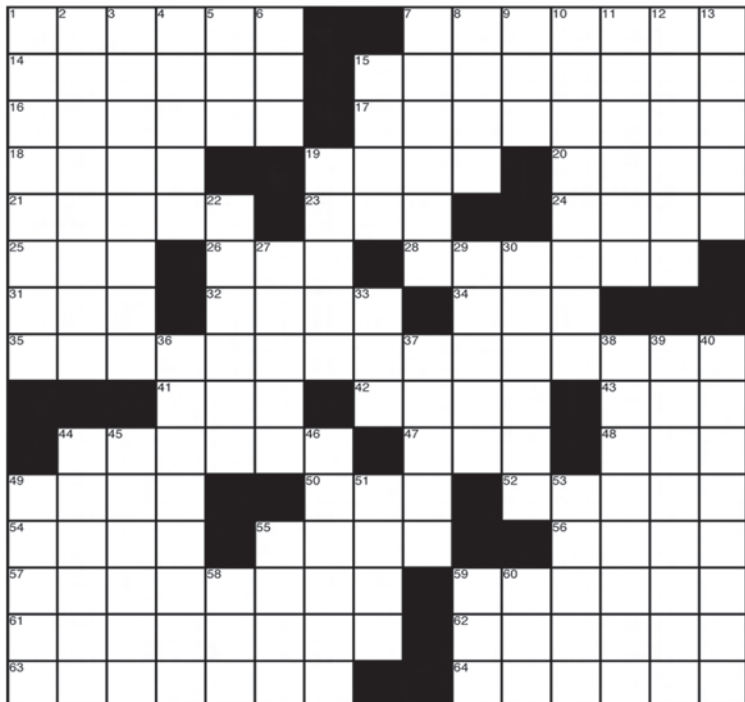
Varney has been playing at Aromas for five years.

“I just want people to leave feeling good inside,” Varney said, “thinking to themselves, ‘I'd like to hear that again and again and again.’”



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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- In other words
- Ally on TV
- Plain
- Like some fine pottery
- PANT
- CHEF
- Lively folk dance
- Expensive car trips
- One of four Holy Roman emperors
- Surface
- Scandinavian money
- Some nods
- Jazz composer Evans
- SPED
- Coins with profiles of Nehru
- Having no bounds: Abbr.
- Pop music's Hanson, e.g.
- Vote in Québec
- Traits helpful in answering the eight capitalized clues
- “...__ will!”
- City on the Rhein
- Fuzziness
- Kind of case
- MOST
- Windy City transportation
- 48-Across's specialty
- What some surrogates get
- Air beyond the clouds
- 1970's Vogue discovery
- Name for an Irish lass
- River known in ancient times as Obringa
- DEFY
- RUNS
- Strikeouts?
- High point
- Curtain decoration
- Like the worst predictions

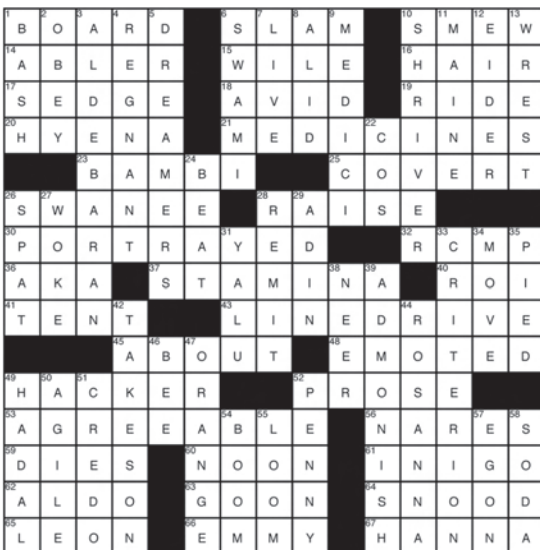
DOWN

- Place for diplomacy
- Eulogist's activity
- City that's the title of an Emmylou Harris song
- Melodic subjects
- Suffix with project
- Lang. unit
- Braggart
- Sights
- ___ Day (May 1, in Hawaii)
- NAVE
- David, e.g.
- Rouen relations
- Concert voices
- Quality
- Specifically
- Glycerides, e.g.
- 1970's sitcom
- Result of some arm-twisting?
- ___ Claire (city near Montreal)
- Where Mork and Mindy honeymooned
- POSE
- Herbert Hoover, for one
- Responsible
- Bistros and the like
- Gaunt
- Land development
- Rain forest sights
- Just desserts
- Transfix

- Struggles
- Accompaniment for a fife
- Title meaning “chieftain”
- Wish nullified
- Pop
- Prefix with grammatical meaning

Source: New York Times

Last Week's Solution



Heroman

By Thomas Baumgardner



Knowing Jack

By Mika G. Shannon

Interested in writing for the newspaper?
The Variety section is looking for writers.

Come to our meetings Sundays in the Campus Center
basement at 5:00 p.m., or e-mail fhrty@wm.edu.



By Tegan Neustatter
Flat Hat Staff Writer

That Guy: Eric Marth

Eric Marth views the world through his own lens. His is a lens that brings laughter to audiences at 7th Grade Sketch Comedy shows and the respect of video contest judges. While not working on film, his academic major and hobby of choice, he is a web designer for both Swem Library and Submission, the online magazine for WCWM, the college's radio station. As he nears the end of the reel of film that is his college career, Marth is focusing on his dream of someday owning his own ad agency.

When did you join 7th Grade Sketch Comedy?

I joined as a junior, so this is my second full year. I [wanted to join after I] saw a few shows. I was really impressed with how funny they were. I like doing writing and performing and stuff, so I wanted to be a part of it.

So which do you like better: writing sketches or performing them?

I like to see it all come together. I started writing a little more this semester, and that's been a little more rewarding; it kinda heightened my enjoyment.

Where do you get your inspiration?

From all sorts of things. In this last show we had a huge gamut of sketches, [for example] a sketch about an eccentric billionaire who was murdered by his scientists. We like to focus on people and their absurdities.

You made a film that recently received the 2nd place award in a national video contest.

I found out about the contest spring semester of last year from professor Zuber, who teaches film. My friend Mark, who goes to University of Virginia, and I make videos together, so we decided to enter this past summer. We saw that there was a rule that said that you could submit as many videos as you want, so we wrote seven scripts. We filmed three of the seven scripts and improvised one of them. The one that we improvised ended up winning. We spent half an hour on it and [as a prize] got \$800 for it. We haven't spent [the money] yet; we're still debating whether we want to blow it in a day or put it towards equipment. I think we'll end up buying a camera.

Along with your film career, you seem to be doing a lot of web-related jobs, both for Submission

magazine and for Swem.

I got into the digital stuff when I was a freshman in high school. I started out learning web design and Photoshop and stuff. That's carried over into the design aspects of film. I do all of my videos digitally. I've never used analog format before. I guess I got used to [web design] enough to get a job. Submission comes out once a month online. We also do a print issue in the winter and near the end of second semester. Right now, in it we have interviews of bands national and local, record reviews and playlists. I just did an interview with [local band] Caustic Cassanova. Also, I do various tasks at the library; I just finished doing the virtual tours of Swem. It's a really nice job; you get paid to do artistic things.

Since you work for the radio, do you listen to WCWM? If so, what kind of music do you like?

I enjoy listening to [WCWM] in my car quite a bit. I also enjoy calling in to request Black Sabbath, which is great because they don't have any of their early records. And I know that, but I still call in and request that, hoping that maybe the station will buy them.

Is there ever any creative conflict among the members of 7th Grade?

Sometimes. We've become a little more selective and a bit harder on ourselves lately. We've definitely been gradually increasing in quality, and we're a bit more thorough this round through in terms of cutting things we don't like and making sure everything is very tight. We'll go through and write about 40 sketches and cut it down to 20, then put them all together. We take about a week in running sketches.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I'd really like to be writing for television, directing for television or making my own films. Maybe running an ad agency of my own, possibly something that's commercially artistic. My number one goal is to be creatively employed.

What is the best part of coming back from spring break?

Well, the best part is definitely not realizing that you aren't going to have another break. But I do enjoy seeing really red people and maybe creating a scale of rare to well done. Because people are meat, anyways.

Learn to love randomly

Spring break totally flew by again this year. It never really seems quite long enough; after you sleep for the first four days straight to recover from midterms, there's barely time left to be ridiculous

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



Kate
Prengaman

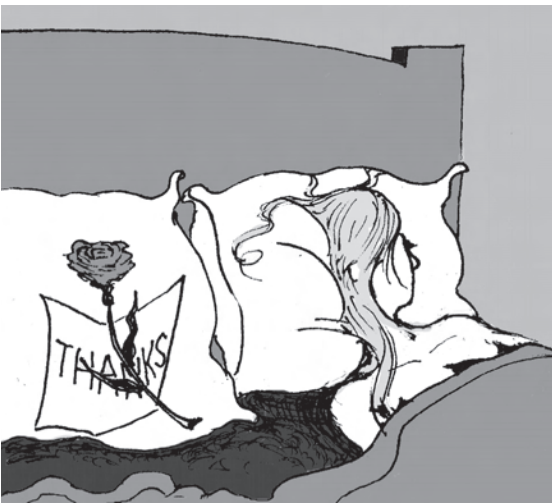
and enjoy yourself. So, just to prolong the magic a little longer, this week's column will honor a tried and true spring break tradition: the truly random hook-up.

For today's purposes, let's consider a random hook-up when you get with someone you didn't expect to. If you've had a crush on her for a month, it's not random, it's premeditated. Now, there are several levels of random hook-ups. On the barely random end of the spectrum, there's one of your roommate's girlfriend's friends. (More random would be a kid from your freshman seminar who you ran into at the Leafe and noticed got a lot more attractive since in the last two or three years.) At the random extreme, you find yourself getting sexual with someone you've never met before, and probably never will again.

There are many reasons to love the random hook-up, including the look on the face of your best friend the next morning when you give her the surprisingly juicy details of your evening. Just one really good one and you're set for Never Have I Ever for life. And, in all seriousness, it can be just enough spice in your otherwise routine life to keep you going for a while. Correction: I meant to say routine single life; one-night stands are not recommended as a way to add spice to the lives of those in a relationship. Escape from relationship, possibly. Screw up relationship, most likely. Spice, nope.

Unfortunately, far too many people find themselves regretting their random hook-ups the next day, either because they made a stupid drunken decision or just on principle because they feel like there is an inherent shame in random sexuality. That just isn't true, or at least it shouldn't be true. Sure, it's not right for everybody, but there is nothing shameful about deciding to get it on with someone you're attracted to, even if you don't know them, as long as you use a condom (even for oral). If you don't respect yourself enough to use a condom, I'm sorry to be harsh, but you deserve some shame.

Plus, there are some definite benefits to sex with no strings attached. You have the opportunity to be open and adventurous in a way that is often hard to do with someone with whom you are starting or considering having a relationship. In new or



potential relationships, it's natural to be concerned with making a good impression on your partner, which makes it hard to do something kinky, like talking dirty or doing it against the wall with half your clothes still on. And obviously, since I know we've talked about this before, there's just something exciting about the unknown. Last but not least, if you suffer from a hugely embarrassing incident, you don't have to worry about recovering from it, you can just run away, never see them again and laugh with all your friends about it the next day.

I'm not suggesting that random hook-ups are the best way to express yourself sexually. They probably aren't, compared to sex that really means something with someone with whom you feel totally comfortable. But, since we all don't always have that amazing someone in our lives all the time, there's no need to be sexually frustrated while waiting, right?

So, I need your help. To encourage people to see random hook-ups as fun, funny and fairly frequent, instead of shameful, I'm going to devote an upcoming column to the College's best random hook-up stories. Hot or awkward, hilarious or sexy, I want to hear about it. For example, if you were once awake very early during beach week, and found yourself invited into the shower for some fun by a friend of a friend you had just met a day or two before, that'd be a good story. It would be even better if, when you came back downstairs feeling good about your secret, you found everyone else in your house awake and waiting in the living room to laugh at you because they had all figured out what was happening. So, if you've got a story worth sharing, please e-mail it to me at kapre2@wm.edu. Don't worry, we'll keep them anonymous, and you could even consider it your daily good deed or a community service project to help with this good cause.

Kate Prengaman is the Flat Hat sex columnist. She's looking forward to collecting your stories in the next week or two.

BISTRO

FROM PAGE 9

and associates who continue to bring them to us. Now we seem to have and influx, and they're threatening to take over," Everett said.

The Bistro also features a comprehensive wine list to accompany their meals. Building on his experience in the wine industry, Steely said he is seeking to amass a collection of young and current wines, many of which are virtually unknown.

"We don't serve any older wines like other restaurants. What we really wanted to do was find rare varieties of wine which would be new to both the connoisseur and the first-time drinker, and we now have more than 30 wines available by the glass," Steely said. "I'd love

it if there were wine on every table in the restaurant, provided the people being served are of age."

In their time operating the Bistro, Steely and Everett said they have enjoyed themselves tremendously, even with the ever-growing chicken statue population. "Any serious job is hard, and the restaurant business is very demanding. If you don't love what you're doing, it'll spit you right back out," Steely said. "Criticism comes and goes, but we can take it. We really love what we do here."

Everett summed up the Bistro's unique approach to cooking and dining.

"The key is that we bill it as serious comfort food," he said. "We know the classic dishes, the techniques to prepare them, and we also do familiar style cooking — all in a bistro manner. Typically you will find things that are affordable and great tasting."



MIKE HARPER • THE FLAT HAT




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Job Openings

ADULT SERVICES ASSISTANT - Position #804. Two temporary positions, May 15 through September 15, 2006. Both part-time; 20 hours/week, may include some evenings and weekends; starting salary \$9.69/hour. Assists with overseeing library patron use of the computer reservation and printing systems, and responsible for other clerical tasks to support the Adult Services Department, as directed, at the Williamsburg Library on Scotland Street. **REQUIRED:** High school diploma or equivalent; college and/or public library experience preferred; computer experience, including word processing; accuracy and efficiency in clerical skills; ability to work independently and maintain effective working relationships. **QUESTIONS:** Call Barry Trott, WRL Adult Services Director, 757-259-4053 or e-mail: btrott@wrl.org. **EOE.**

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006

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BRIEFS

Service trips

An Eastern Shore clean up and connection program will take place March 24 to 25. Volunteers are needed to work with Eastern Shore Rural Health to help clean up a trailer park and work with Spanish-speaking families. After the area is clean, volunteers will spend time playing board games and reading

with the children of the families. Spanish speakers are needed for this trip. E-mail cltuff@wm.edu if you are interested.

Bionetics grant

The Bionetics Corporation is funding summer stipends up to \$2,000 to encourage students

to spend a summer involved in a significant community service activity. Any project that helps a non-profit organization in Newport News, Virginia is eligible. Applications are available outside of Campus Center Room 157 and are due March 17 at 5 p.m.

Service learning opportunity

Want to spend winter break in the Caribbean working with children and earning elective credits? Contact Dr. Lynn Pelco at lepelc@wm.edu to take part in this once-in-a lifetime experience. Applications are due April 10.

Order of the White Jacket Scholarships

Applications for the Order of the White Jacket scholarships are now available at www.wmalumni.com, the Office of Financial Aid and the Alumni Center. The order was created to honor alumni who worked their way through college

in food service establishments. Last year, the order awarded \$32,000 in scholarships to students working in food service. For more information, contact Pat Burdette at pnburd@wm.edu or x1173. Applications are due March 17.

Service grants

The Office of Student Volunteer Services will be allocating a few summer service grants specifically for students who are planning to serve in a Gulf Coast community hit by hurricane Katrina. All restrictions and stipulations are the same as those for regular summer service grants. Please use the regular summer service grant application to apply. E-mail mjfflet@wm.edu for an application or with any questions.

Hulon Willis Association Scholarships

The Hulon Willis Association is named after the first African-American student admitted to the College and provides financial assistance to students at the College

who exemplify the qualities of HWA and work to help enrich the diversity of the College's community. Scholarship applications are now available for eligible students at the offices of Financial Aid and Multicultural Affairs and at www.wmalumni.com. Questions can be directed to Pat Burdette at x1173, or e-mail pnburd@wm.edu.

Basketball league

Do you want to make a difference in children's lives? The local youth basketball league, CAA-NBL, is looking for coaches. All that is needed is two hours a week (one hour of practice and a game Friday night or Saturday morning) and one hour monthly for coaches' meetings. Call Victoria Butler at 229-3316 to get involved.

Attention Scrabble lovers

The Linguistics Club invites all students, professors, staff, alumni and neighbors of the College to a Scrabble Tournament at 7 p.m. March 20 in University Center Chesapeake B. A raffle will be conducted for prizes including a Cold Stone Creamery cake, a pizza from Sal's by Victor, a \$25 gift certificate to Mermaid Books, CDs and more. Refreshments will be served. The \$5 cover charges will be directly donated to the Rita Welsh Adult Learning Center. For more information, check the club website at www.wm.edu/linguistics/ club or e-mail Joseph Dombroski at jwdomb@wm.edu.

Personal care assistant needed

An alumna from the class of 1985 who has multiple sclerosis is looking for a female assistant to help with transfers, dressing, motion stretches, serving lunch, transportation and participating in an MS aquatics class. Applicants must be able to lift 25 pounds and be available for six hours between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays,

year round. No experience is necessary, and anyone who is accepted will be trained. The job pays \$7.50 per hour. Contact 221-0191 or lydiamayo@cox.net for more information.

Writing Resources Center

The College's Writing Resources Center, located in Tucker Hall 115A, offers free one-on-one consultations for undergraduate and graduate students at all stages of the writing process. An oral communications studio is also located in the center to assist students preparing for speeches or oral presentations.

The center, staffed by trained undergraduate consultants, is open from 10 a.m. to noon, 1 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Fridays and 7 to 10 p.m. Sundays. The Writing Center at Swem Library is open from 2 to 5 p.m. Sundays. To schedule an appointment, call x3925 or stop by during regular business hours. See www.wm.edu/wrc for more information.

Relaxation sessions

Relax your mind, body and spirit by attending an experiential relaxation session. No appointment is necessary, just show up. Sessions are Wednesdays from 1:15 to 1:45 p.m. in 240 Blow Hall room 240. The program includes deep breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, autogenic training and guided imagery exercises. Attend as many as you would like. Call Dr. Felicia Brown-Anderson at x3620 with questions or would like further information.

Josephine Humphreys reading

Southern novelist Josephine Humphreys will be holding a reading at Ewell Recital Hall at 8 p.m. April 13. Admission is free, and the public is welcome.

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REVIEWS



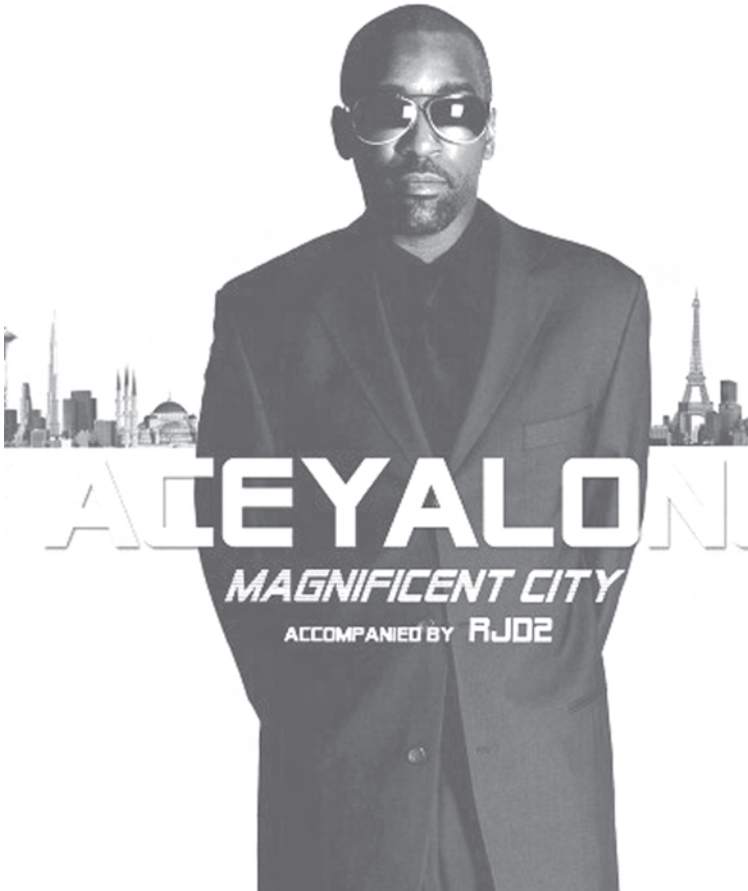
Who's Scarlett playing nanny to?
See GOSSIP, page 14.

I'M NOT A CELEBRITY, I JUST PLAY ONE IN THE MOVIES



COURTESY PHOTO • ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES
Phillip Seymour Hoffman (LEFT) and Reese Witherspoon took home Oscar gold for best actor and actress, respectively. Hoffman won for his work as the enigmatic author Truman Capote in "Capote" and Witherspoon for her portrayal of June Carter Cash in "Walk the Line."

Aceyalone builds 'Magnificent City'



COURTESY PHOTO • DECON INC

BY NATE HIPPLE
THE FLAT HAT

CORRUPT COPS TAKE STROLL DOWN '16 BLOCKS'

BY BETH SUTHERLAND
THE FLAT HAT

Okay. True, this is a total genre film. And yes, we've been hit over the head with yet another dirty cop flick, but ...

"16 Blocks," from Director Richard Donner manages to transcend these seeming hindrances to creativity with a whole lot of heart. It takes a refreshingly unique approach to the somewhat archetypal formula and possesses an unpredictability that allows the viewer to join the characters in the romp rather than passively observe. Also, this is not simply an action flick; it's a tale of redemption, about second chances and friendship. The movie contains two fantastic performances (by Mos Def and Bruce Willis) and several very good ones. The direction is surprisingly artful for a kind of factory film, and the script is sharp but believable. What really makes this movie work, though — what gives it its special depth — is the colorful pallet of literarily pleasing characters. Every man is an everyman (but they're not cookie-cutter caricatures), and the choices he makes may or may not save his soul, so to speak.

While a thoughtful script does a world of good for a movie's characters, the actors are the people who infuse them with life. If Willis as a melancholy copper seems like déjà vu, you may have seen him in "Sin City," "Die Hard," "Unbreakable," "The Fifth Element," "Hostage" or "Mercury Rising." He's a pretty typecast kind of guy, but that may be because he plays such a

believable everyday hero. Willis acts with a perpetually pained expression, and it's novel for a smile to peek through the stoic mask. The world is tiring and frustrating, says his face: a perfect policeman. Playing Detective Jack Mosley, he begins the movie as an extremely weathered and depressed alcoholic with a limp and barely enough energy to speak



COURTESY PHOTO • WARNER BROS.
Bruce Willis (LEFT) and Mos Def co-star in the intense new "16 Blocks."

in coherent sentences. He's easily winded, has a belly and sports a mustache. He's the everyman. His quirky foil, played wonderfully by musician Mos Def ("Monster's Ball," "Lackawanna Blues"), is Eddie Bunker, an eccentric ex-felon who dreams of owning a bakery. This character is constantly talking (to someone or to himself) and provides not only most of the film's humor, but also a glimpse at possibilities of innocence. These are some fleshy characters, and their polar-opposite personalities produce a captivating chemistry.

They are two sides of the same coin and have the same story to tell. Both have made mistakes. Both follow their own paths to redemption. Both are unlikely saints and unlikely sinners. Both are blessed with decent lines.

The script isn't predictable or lazy. It doesn't settle for the expected, but rather is used to deepen its characters, invoke fate,

a long, mindlessly action-packed chase scene. There is a lot of cool action, but there's even more character development going on as the 'heroes' make their way to the courthouse. Spoiler warning: information is cleverly withheld from the viewer until the audience finally discovers the cause of Mosley's altruism. He is one of the bad cops. Feeling guilty, he was going to let Bunker testify and risk death so that he didn't have to himself. He wasn't supposed to pick up Bunker in the first place, so Mosley takes it as a sign that he was meant to face his own demons and to turn in both his friends and himself. The story is more complicated than this, but this spoiler skeleton plot should give some indication of how a recycled story can be twisted to produce something new.

"People can change," Bunker yells to Mosley during an act of courageous loyalty. Despite dark pasts, both redeem themselves. Though the ex-partner never repents, even he isn't demonized. Everyone's a sympathetic character. In spite of this surprising, rare-for-Hollywood depth, the film is also a very entertaining action flick. The viewer is kept on edge as the successes and setbacks of the chase parallel the characters' own self-actualization. The chase starts at Mulberry Street, causing the thoughtful viewer to think ... "All around the mulberry bush, the monkey chased the weasel ..." Just how deep is this movie? Is Mosley the "Hero With a Thousand Faces"? Or just the protagonist of another cop movie? Well, he's both. See for yourself.

and all these people in L.A., and it's so cool because they're all totally connected."

Uh, yeah. I get that it's about race. Haggis's cues are about as subtle as flashing the word "racist" in bold letters every time a new character walks onto the screen. And I totally get what he's saying — black people can be racist, too. And Persians. And Asians. No. Shit. Only the Hispanic with a heart of gold seems to evade Haggis's racist ray — and he pays penance for it in the form of the single-most horrendously overwrought lawn confrontation I've ever seen on film (never before has slow-motion been so literally and figuratively painful).

I also get the inbred politics of the thing — I even get that said inbred politics lend themselves nicely to Haggis's whole "Everyone's A Little Bit Racist" slant. Problem is, what would feel artful in another film (see again: P.T. Anderson's "Magnolia") feels downright force-fed here. It's like Haggis is stranded on a thousand-mile-high soapbox above Los Angeles, gleefully arranging and re-arranging

"Groundhog's peekin' out, stickin' out against the wack world while they freakin' out," ("Caged Bird"): early February saw the groundhog poking its head up from his underground den after a winter locked away. The following Tuesday saw rapper-producer duo Aceyalone and RJD2 following suit and releasing their first collaboration, "Magnificent City." Unfortunately, upon appearance, they found that hip-hop's winter was still going very strong. Instead of being dismayed by the lines of snowmen crowding the scene, this proud creature marched boldly forward with inventive rhymes and layered soundscapes.

"Few spit it like I spit and only few get it/ Why you want to 2-bit it/ Don't know what to do with it?" ("Disconnected"): Aceyalone has long been the next stage of evolution in the West Coast hip-hop scene. Along with other progressive acts, such as Blackalicious or Jurassic 5, Aceyalone has long stood stalwart as the California cliffs against the ocean of gangster rap flooding the scene. Unfortunately, this founding member of Freestyle Fellowship is not without wear, and this jaded personality shows on his sixth release, "Magnificent City."

"What else do you need besides superb wordage?" ("All For You"): the principal strength behind any Aceyalone release has always been his smooth flow and his clever lyrics — jaded or otherwise. Nothing has changed on "Magnificent City" in this regard. he is still spitting straight fire and bringing intelligent rhymes with witty wordplay. Sometimes, however, Aceyalone's wordiness can get the best of him, alienating casual listeners. Regardless, his lyrics unfold to reveal a deeper meaning on each listening. This is one of those rare discs that true fans will still be dissecting years down the road.

"Heaven ain't got no stairway/ Heaven ain't got no ghetto," ("Heaven"): Aceyalone's wordplay and smooth delivery are fully complimented by the disc's wide variety of subjects. The songs on "Magnificent City" range from elaborate stories to moral musings to self-conscious mutterings. No two tracks repeat themselves, and he deftly avoids the typical pattern of arrogant self-promotion. Each song reveals a new depth to Aceyalone's character. These songs also move on to flesh out his vivid metropolis. This city is populated by a wide array of feelings and emotions that often contradict themselves to produce a complete picture.

"I want to talk now. No, you can't call me back," ("Here and Now"): Aceyalone's sparkling cityscape rings with every walk of life, all brilliantly conveyed. It's clear to the listener that he is still hungry. This may be his sixth disc, but Aceyalone is rapping like it's his debut (or finale). This sort of ferocity is almost unparalleled in today's neutered hip-hop scene of comfortable corporatism and fat cats. This sort of delivery, whether fast and hard or slow and laid-back, works wonders in bringing the listener into his world and bringing it to life.

"Yo, there's something wrong with my radio dial: some of these fools just ain't got style," ("Fire"): granted, you cannot build a city without first laying foundations. This is where innovative producer RJD2

See 'City' + page 14

CRITICAL CONDITION



Kyle Meikle

I am so fucking tired of people telling me that "Crash" is an amazing film. Because they don't ever just tell me that it's an amazing film — they tell me that it's an "uh-MAY-zing" film, letting their eyes get all wide and upturned on the "may," as if squeezing the singular awesomeness of the movie into one mere syllable is an exercise in ecstasy. In the past few months alone, I've heard at least four people (my sister, my roommate, a sociology classmate, a fellow writer) describe it as such, and while I concede that "Crash" is many things (energetic, affecting, manipulative, hackneyed, Oscar-winning), amazing it is not.

Don't get me wrong; I don't count myself among the denizens of "Brokeback" mountaineers who felt that its loss at the Academy Awards this month points to some sort of Hollywood-wide homophobic conspiracy (sorry, guys, but Phillip Seymour Hoffman didn't exactly play it straight in "Capote"). And sure, while I think that "Brokeback" is a better film than "Crash," I also think that "Munich"

is a better film than "Brokeback" (indeed, the best of 2005). What truly pisses me off is the near-cultish fervor "Crash" seems to inspire in its followers, as if no film on race and interconnected lives in an American city has ever been made (or made better) before.

Maybe that's just because I saw "Crash" back when it took place in Brooklyn and was called "Do the Right Thing." Or when it still took place in L.A. and was called "Short Cuts." Or when it moved to the San Fernando Valley and was called "Magnolia." Or when James Toback directed it and it was called "Black and White." (I also saw it in 1996, when David Cronenberg directed it, and it was about car-crash-erotica — apparently Paul Haggis can't even come up with an original title.) I say this, not to sound like the film snob that I am, but because "Crash's" race-related interconnectedness always seems to be the major selling point of its followers.

Exempli gratia: "Crash" fan: "Have you seen 'Crash'? It's uh-MAY-zing. It's about race,

and all these people in L.A., and it's so cool because they're all totally connected."

Uh, yeah. I get that it's about race. Haggis's cues are about as subtle as flashing the word "racist" in bold letters every time a new character walks onto the screen. And I totally get what he's saying — black people can be racist, too. And Persians. And Asians. No. Shit. Only the Hispanic with a heart of gold seems to evade Haggis's racist ray — and he pays penance for it in the form of the single-most horrendously overwrought lawn confrontation I've ever seen on film (never before has slow-motion been so literally and figuratively painful).

I also get the inbred politics of the thing — I even get that said inbred politics lend themselves nicely to Haggis's whole "Everyone's A Little Bit Racist" slant. Problem is, what would feel artful in another film (see again: P.T. Anderson's "Magnolia") feels downright force-fed here. It's like Haggis is stranded on a thousand-mile-high soapbox above Los Angeles, gleefully arranging and re-arranging

figures below without a single whim or worry about any sort of logic or culpability. Where do these characters come from? Why do they think the way they do? Maybe it's half of Haggis's project that he remains as skin-deep as his woe-ful band of antagonists, but it makes for one hell of an artificial and superficial film-going experience.

Haggis takes stabs at artfulness here and there, but they're few and far between. When Don Cheadle's character says at the beginning of the film, "We're always behind this metal and glass. I think we miss that touch so much, that we crash into each other, just so we can feel something," you can practically see Haggis banging away on his laptop saying, "Man, this shit is great." It's a far cry from Anderson's opulent three-ringed "Magnolia" preface — by the time we reach that film's amphibious dénouement, all the chance encounters and redemptive gestures fall into place so beautifully

See 'CRASH' + page 14



SINGLED OUT
Ashley Parker Angel — “Let U Go”
From his forthcoming, as yet unnamed, album

Former O-Town “Liquid Dream”-er (and father to Lyric) Ashley Angel Parker graduates from boy band tool to pop punk wannabe in this anemic, anthemic bid for radio relevancy. P.S. Ash, dig the misspelling — did you learn that from Kelly Clarkson?

— *compiled by kyle meikle*

WCWM TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. *Destroyer’s Rubies* — **Destroyer**
2. *Classic Railroad Songs, Smithsonian Folkways* — **Various Artists**
3. *Singles And Sessions 1979-1981* — **Delta 5**
4. *Fox Confessor Brings The Flood* — **Neko Case**
5. *Whatever People Say I Am ...* — **Arctic Monkeys**
6. *Rubber Traits EP* — **Why?**
7. *The Back Room* — **Editors**
8. *House Arrest* — **Ariel Pink’s Haunted Graffiti**
9. *The Life Pursuit* — **Belle & Sebastian**
10. *The Greatest* — **Cat Power**

HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP

Black’s white wedding
 Keeper of Kong and Tenacious D front-man Jack Black eloped with girlfriend Tanya Haden this week. The “School of Rock” star met Haden when they attended a private arts school in Santa Monica, California; the pair began dating last April at a friend’s birthday party where the D was playing. Haden is a member of the Haden Triplets (their father is legendary jazz bassist Charlie Haden), who recently released the a cappella album “The Who Sell Out.”



Oh my god, they killed Chef!
 Isaac Hayes recently announced that he will be leaving the long-running animated series “South Park” because he feels the show promotes bigotry and intolerance by being overly disrespectful to religious beliefs and practices. “Park” creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone have speculated that the 63-year-old singer and Scientologist Hayes was merely miffed because they spoofed his religion (and L. Ron-addict Tom Cruise) on last season’s “Trapped in the Closet” episode.



Catherine Zeta goes culinary
 Is Catherine Zeta-Jones already tired of winning Academy Awards and hawking T-Mobile? The “Chicago” sizzler showed up in Manhattan’s swank Fiamma restaurant recently, cooking and waiting on a few tables. When told she looked “so much like Catherine Zeta-Jones,” she replied that she got that “all the time.” As it turned out, the Welsh actress was just studying for the title role in Scott Hicks’s upcoming “Mostly Martha,” a film about an acclaimed chef.



Silver screen hires “Nanny”
 No, it’s not a Fran Drescher biopic — plans are in the works to bring a film adaptation of Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus’s popular childcare satire “The Nanny Diaries” to the big screen. Scarlett Johansson has signed on to play college student Annie Braddock, whose life as an Upper East Side nanny is made into a living hell by the neurotic Mrs. X (to be portrayed in the film by the lovely Laura Linney). “Nanny” goes into production next month.

— *compiled by kyle meikle*

WCWM 90.9 FM SPRING 2006 PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE	SUNDAY Mid.-2 a.m.: Chase Coleman 12-2 p.m.: Devin Oller “Pass the Hat” 2-4 p.m.: Anne Gessler “Music from Under Anne’s Bed” 4-6 p.m.: Mika Mason “Naive Melody” 6-8 p.m.: Matt Blair “Big Book of British Smiles” 8-10 p.m.: Matt Sherrill “Pure Pop for Now	People” 10 p.m. - Mid.: Josh Specht and David Sievers	TUESDAY Mid.-2 a.m.: Russ Waddell “Aural Coprophilia” 2-4 p.m.: Emily Flowers “World Music” 4-6 p.m.: Kevin Bowman “Twin Spin” 6-8 p.m.: Taurin Barrera and Dan Siepmann “The Ebonic Plague” 8-10 p.m.: Keyan Shahdi “News Casual Acquaintance”	10 p.m.-Mid.: John Carriger and Chip Cotton “Chip and John’s Hybrid Show”	Calder and Abbie Pugh “Miercoles Gigante” 10-Mid.: Brian Kelley “Party O’Clock”	8-10 p.m.: Alex de Leon “Vinyl Archaeologies” 10 p.m.-Mid.: Sean Fox and Kristen Sincavage “12 Step Program”	SATURDAY 10-12 p.m.: Josh Allen “Untitled Radlo” 12-2 p.m.: Jack Charron “Veritable Cornucopia of Sound” 2-4 p.m.: Daryl Cameron “Dark Matter” 4-6 p.m.: Andy Beers and Dave McClendon “Massive Saxophone” 10 p.m.-Mid.: Kurt Bailey and Adam Kane “The Kiddie Hour”
	MONDAY 4-6 p.m.: Bohuslav Rattay “Colonial Classics” 6-8 p.m.: Clayton Carr “The Clayton Carr Show” 8-10 p.m.: Rachel Scheer “Ray-List” 10-Mid: Nate Loehrke and Andy Smith “Two Hours of Awesome”	WEDNESDAY 1-3 p.m.: Eric Van Orman “DJ Easter Egg Hunt Doin’ His Thing” 4-6 p.m.: Megan Vail “Week in Music” 6-8 p.m.: Graham Dezarn “Audiography” 8-10 p.m.: Steve	THURSDAY 12-2 p.m.: Bryant Mohns “Get Happy” 2-4 p.m. Rober Simmons 4-6 p.m.: Roy Lenn, “Power of Suggestion” 6-8 p.m.: Adam Burks “The Six O’Clock Hammer Party”	FRIDAY 1-3 p.m.: Patrick Donaldson 8-10 p.m.: Robert Simmons 10 p.m. - Mid.: Chris Larkum and Amy Shields “Get Ready To Live”			

‘CITY’

FROM PAGE 13

comes in. Each beat is intricately built from the ground up and layered with more instrumentation than the average listener can fully digest in one listening. While still accessible for beginners, it takes time to process RJD2’s beats on the level they deserve. Each beat is carefully built around the accompanying song and, as a result, the lyrics and beats play off of each other flawlessly. Aceyalone matches RJD2’s production with his rhyming, and the two of them construct a shining world.

“Didn’t you notice by my swagger I was an artist?” (“Fire”): the glimmering cityscape created by these two minds is so tangible that the listeners will find themselves completely immersed. Simply stated, this world is cool on a whole new plane. If the photos of suits and shades aren’t enough, each song on this album has an undeniable style. In order

to enjoy “Magnificent City” fully, the listener needs to block out the real world with a pair of headphones and just groove. Before long, anyone would find themselves chilling and just surfing the melodies. Aceyalone’s voice carries listeners across RJD2’s sonic construct with sophistication and style.

“I came for your mind, not for the fame” (“Here and Now”): this shining metropolis of underground hip-hop stands unabashedly as one of the most innovative and accessible works to come out of West Coast hip-hop in quite some time. This groundhog’s sense of style and sheer heat should be enough to begin thawing hip-hop’s never-ending winter with the proper support.

It’s time for all of the other forest animals to come out of hibernation and follow this bold groundhog forward. “Magnificent City” is a movement unto itself, ready to go. All that’s left is for the forest to stop sleeping and mobilize.

‘CRASH’

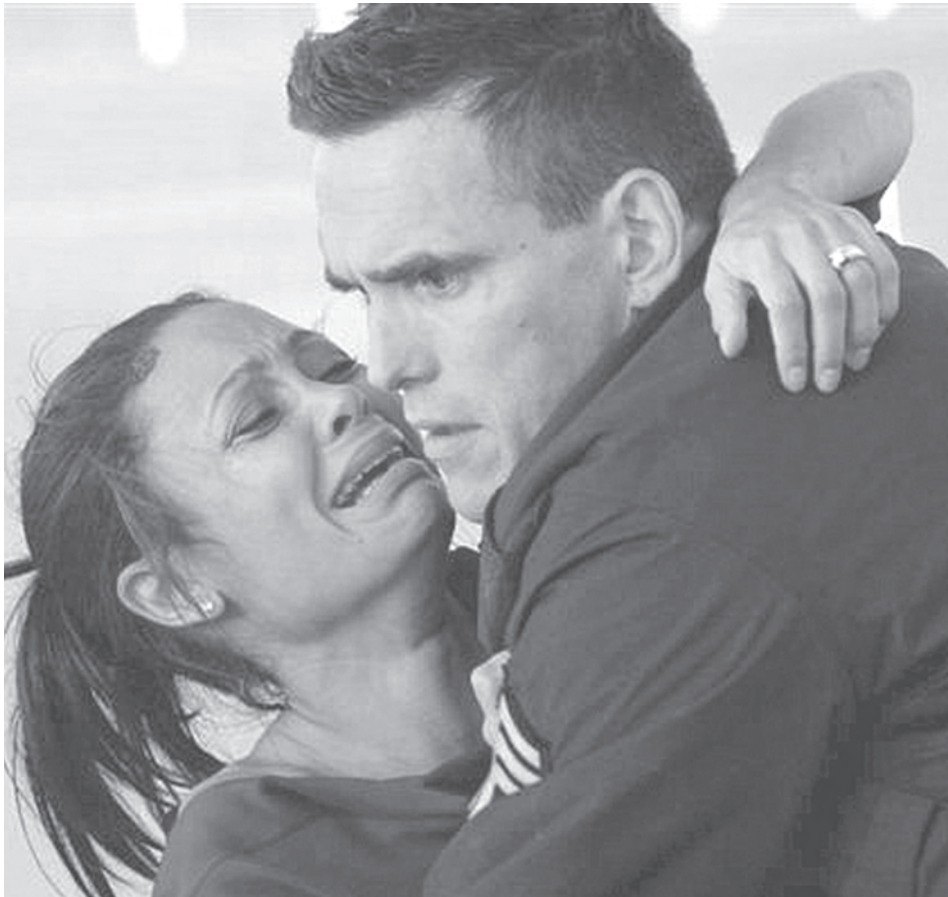
FROM PAGE 13

that the director barely has to try to make ends meet. In “Crash” we get “Into The Deep” shit and one hell of a cheap trick: snow falling on L.A. Cedar-Sinai (“Buffy” did it way, way better).

It’s not that I don’t see what Haggis is trying to do — it’s just that, who doesn’t? Every supposedly fateful plot twist in the film is mapped out like a Billy-learns-race-relations-in-L.A. “Family Circus” trajectory. Of course racism exists, and of course everyone has racial prejudices; Haggis’s exploration of those racial complexities, however, is so ham-fisted that it reduces the characters to near parodic imitations of themselves. Sandra Bullock as the white collar woman who hates the help? Check. Terrence Howard as the black guy who’s chided for not being black enough? Check. Matt Dillon as — and please, stretch your imagination on this one — the blatantly racist L.A. cop? Check.

Haggis doesn’t offer us any new insights into race, he merely rehashes old ones in a cheap, stagey and entirely exploitative exercise. That “Crash,” you see, is apparently the sound of Paul Haggis’s heavy hand bitch-slapping your bigoted ass. How uh-MAY-zing-ly graceless.

Kyle Meikle is a Reviews editor. He hates the director of “Crash,” but he really enjoys lower-case “h” haggis.



COURTESY PHOTO • LIONS GATE
 Thandie Newton and Matt Dillon star in Paul Haggis’s Academy Award-winning “Crash.”

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SPORTS



Can you do the Do?
Check out this martial art.
See RACKET, page 16.

Tribe track, field finishes exceptional indoor season

BY BRAD CLARK
THE FLAT HAT

The men's and women's track and field teams closed out their indoor seasons strongly March 5, with nine All-East performances at

Look ahead

Who: Virginia Commonwealth University
Date: Today
Where: Richmond, Va.



place 10th and the women's team place 23rd.

Led by sophomore Ian Fitzgerald, the men's team took the 5,000-meter race by storm, seizing three of the eight All-East positions. Fitzgerald's personal best time of 14 minutes, 13.08 seconds earned him third place, just 0.4 seconds out of first. Closely following Fitzgerald, and earning personal records as well, were senior Matt Keally and sophomore Dave Mock, who ran 14:17.72 and 14:26.75 to claim fifth and seventh places, respectively. Fitzgerald's time provisionally qualified him for the NCAA championships, although, due to a large number of athletes reaching the automatic standard this year, the national committee did not select him for the competition. Junior Anthony Arena, freshman Colin Leak and junior Steve Hoogland also competed for the Tribe in the 5,000-m, running 14:30.36, 14:31.08 and 14:58.71. The results were especially heartening considering where the distance runners are in their training.

"We're really building up for outdoors, so this meet was more just a checkpoint," Leak said. "We're just in phase two out of four of our training cycle, which means

that we're doing high volume and lots of hard work. I'm running 90 miles a week right now, but some of the guys are up over 110."

The women didn't seem to be slowed down by training either, as they also fielded strong qualifiers in the 5,000-m, exemplified by red-shirt junior Kristin Shiring's fourth-place finish. What makes her performance all the more impressive is that she placed out of the slower section; after leading a good portion of her race, she managed to come home in a time of 16:44.33, good enough to displace all but three competitors. Unfortunately, the women's other hope for an All-East performance, senior Julia Cathcart, tripped during her section and ultimately dropped out of the race. Both competitors earned NCAA provisional qualifying times, but were not selected for the national meet due to the wealth of talent in the event this year.

Another fourth place distance winner was junior Meghan Bishop, who ran 9:31.25. Bishop's time, a personal best by 12 seconds, also provisionally qualified her for the NCAA championships, as well as making her the fourth fastest female Tribe runner in the school's history. No runner from the College has run faster since 2003, when three-time All-American Ali Henderson won the ECAC title.

"I try not to go into a meet expecting too much, so I was pleasantly surprised with the girls' performances," women's Head Coach Kathy Newberry said. "Given the workouts they've done leading up to this point, however, I wouldn't say these runs were unexpected. The track doesn't lie about preparation."

The men seemed found equal success in the mid-distance events with All-East performances in both the mile and the 800-m. Junior Matt Wolak earned both a personal best and a top-eight

finish in the mile over the course of the weekend, although in different races. In the preliminary round, Wolak managed to run a career best 4:09.35 in order to move on; the finals found him finishing in fourth with a time of 4:10.14, fewer than two seconds out of first. In the final of the 800-m, Matt Warco picked the right time to run well, as his 1:51.77 personal record earned him sixth place.

The duo both earned their second All-East awards in the distance medley relay, which took place after both had already run their two individual races. Joined by sophomore Ryan Jones and senior Sean Anastasia-Murphy, the team grabbed fourth with a time of 9:55.59. As the name suggests, the distance medley relay combines several legs of different distances. The Tribe filled out the relay with Warco running 3:01 for 1,200 meters, Wolak running 49.9 for 400 meters, Jones running 1:52.3 for 800 meters and Anastasia-Murphy running 4:10.4 for 1,600 meters.

The Multi-events showcased two of the College's best all-around athletes. Junior Brenna Blevins scored a career-high 3,500 points in the pentathlon in order to garner seventh place in the competition. Her teammate, junior Bonnie Meekins, also had a solid meet, finishing with a point total of 3,457, just out of eighth place.

Aaron Mitchell performed admirably as the lone Tribe thrower at the meet. His throw of 52 feet 5 inches in the shot put placed him 11th, a mere foot-and-a-half out of the top eight.

The Tribe will next compete at Virginia Commonwealth University in the Ram Invitational and will compete in several large meets such as the Stanford Invitational and the Raleigh Relays, leading up to the championship season.



IRENE ROJAS • THE FLAT HAT

The Tribe bats against George Washington University last Wednesday. The team pulled out a 15-12 victory.

Dukes march Tribe down hill

BY MADELINE WOLFERT
THE FLAT HAT

Baseball hosted the James Madison University Dukes at home in a three-game series this past weekend. JMU entered the series 8-4 on an eight-game winning streak. The Tribe (5-9) fought to stop the run, but the Dukes

Look ahead

Who: Towson University
Date: Today
Where: Towson, Md.
Time: 2:30 p.m.



continued to dominate, sweeping with a 15-11 victory in game one, 7-4 in game two and completing the series with an 8-4 win.

Game one began with a W&M jumpstart in the first inning, as junior second baseman Brent McWhorter blasted a double down the right-field line, followed by a walk to junior third baseman Greg Sexton. McWhorter scored

effortlessly as sophomore leftfielder Greg Maliniak doubled to right-centerfield. The JMU centerfielder slid to trap the ball but inadvertently kicked it, enabling Sexton to score and Maliniak to advance to third.

JMU did not allow W&M's lead to last long; they drove in three runs in the second and three more in the fourth. In the fifth inning, the Tribe rallied to overtake JMU, beginning with a single and a steal to second by sophomore Paul Juliano. W&M sent 10 men to the plate during the inning, including senior Jeff Lunardi, who blasted a three-run homer to left, allowing the Tribe to claim a 9-6 lead. The Dukes responded viciously by scoring three in the fifth to tie the game, then scoring four more in the seventh.

Regaining vigor in the seventh, the Tribe scored two and closed the lead to 11-13. Freshman shortstop Lanny Stanfield exploded with a double to score freshman rightfielder Ben Guez, and a sacrifice fly by Juliano

drove Stanfield home. A final two-run shot in the eighth by the Dukes brought the final score to 15-11, JMU.

W&M totaled nine hits, as Lunardi, McWhorter and Sexton all had two. The Dukes were charged with six defensive errors and W&M two.

In the second game, the Dukes opened the scoring in the first, totaling three runs. The Tribe answered in the bottom of the first as sophomore Bryan Morosky singled down the left field line. McWhorter bunted and arrived safely at first as the JMU pitcher picked it up but fumbled the throw and was charged with an error. Sexton then ripped his second home run of the year, bringing both men home and tying the game at 3-3.

The action subsided for two scoreless innings, until the Dukes captured the lead in the fourth and extended it to 6-3 in the fifth. Two-out doubles by both Lunardi and Sexton cut the margin to 6-4 in the seventh. After singling to left, stealing second, and reaching third on a groundout, JMU's Michael Cowgill scored on a wild pitch to reach the final score of 7-4, JMU.

W&M finished with nine hits, as both Sexton and Lunardi went three-for-five.

McWhorter began the Tribe offensive in game three with a single, moving to second on a groundout and scoring off a grounder by Maliniak. Adding to the lead in the second, freshman first baseman Mike Sheridan bunted and scored. The Tribe widened their lead to 3-0 when McWhorter scored again in the third with a double.

Junior starting southpaw pitcher Michael LaFleur retired his first nine batters but was unable to hold the Dukes in the fourth, falling to 1-2 in the loss. A leadoff double, walk, sacrifice fly and single knotted the game at three. In the fifth, JMU increased their lead to 5-3, but a run scored by Sheridan in the sixth closed it to one. The Tribe held the Dukes at bay until the eighth, when the Dukes scored three to come through with the 8-4 win. Both tallying two, McWhorter and Sheridan helped the Tribe finish with eight hits.

Women's gymnastics bowls over opponents, sets season high

BY MIKE ZIELINSKI
THE FLAT HAT

This past weekend, the women's gymnastics team held two home meets. The Tribe edged out the Bowling Green State University Falcons 188.350 to 187.475 last

Look ahead

Who: James Madison University
Date: Tomorrow
Where: Harrisonburg, Va.
Time: 5 p.m.



Lewis and the team have every reason to be satisfied with their performances; in addition to the season-high W&M posted Sunday, several competi-

tors garnered season- and career-high scores at both meets. Chief among these was junior Jess Randall's career-high all-around score of 38.275.

The Tribe's strong start Friday propelled them to their narrow victory over Bowling Green. In the first rotation, the women's team put up a season-high score of 47.725 on vault. Senior Brittany Gibbs stood out on the event, posting a 9.675, which won her the individual title for the meet. Junior Christina Padilla was right behind Gibbs with a 9.650. Rounding out the vault squad were senior Kate Magee, freshman Sarah Jacobson and sophomore Tricia Long, who scored 9.525, 9.450 and 9.425, respectively.

W&M carried its momentum to the bars, where the team scored above its season average with a 47.625, with sophomore Stevie Waldman's score of 9.675 grabbing her a second straight win on the event. Waldman shared the title at the Tribe's meet at Towson the previous week, where she posted a career-

high 9.875, which also ties for the third-best bar score in the school's history. Randall put up a season-high of 9.625, and Padilla completed the Tribe's sweep of the top three positions on the event with a 9.575. Long came in fifth with a 9.425, and junior Janelle Green grabbed sixth with her score of 9.325.

On beam, the Tribe eclipsed its season average with a total of 46.975. Leading the beam squad was junior Andrea Dochney, who snagged another first-place win for the team with a 9.575. Waldman was right behind her, taking second with her score of 9.475. Randall continued her big night with a 9.350, which earned her fourth place. Long took fifth with a 9.325, and senior Kristen Gaidish rounded out the top six by scoring 9.300.

Unfortunately, on floor — the Tribe's last event — the team faltered, counting three separate falls. With the Falcons having had a strong showing on the event in the third rotation, it looked as if they might overtake W&M. However, Gibbs and Randall stepped

up, with Gibbs winning the individual title and a season high with a 9.800 and Randall following close behind with a solid 9.650.

Two days later, the Tribe stepped back onto their home turf to face North Carolina. Though they fell to the Tar Heels 190.950 to 194.700, the team earned their aforementioned season-high total with the score.

"This was a very nice performance overall by the girls today," Lewis said. "We were great on Friday, before a couple of slips on floor, but we picked things up today and only had to count one fall, which is a first for us this season."

Leading the long list of individual accomplishments was Randall, who, just two days after posting her season-high all-around score of 37.925, topped herself again with a career high of 38.275. Randall also grabbed a season-high score of 9.675 on bars. Other highlights included another outstanding performance by Waldman on bars. Waldman's score of 9.775 tied for

second place, and her season-high 9.675 on beam earned her fifth. Gibbs matched her season-high of 9.775 on vault to tie for fifth place, and Padilla was right behind with 9.750, grabbing sixth. Long also did well in the all-around, taking fourth place by tying her season-high of 37.950, which included season bests on vault (9.550) and beam (9.600). Dochney bested her first place score of 9.525 on beam Friday with a season-high 9.600, which tied for sixth. Dochney also had another season-high with her bars score of 9.400. Sunday marked only the second time the junior competed in the bars line up this season. After their strong showing Sunday, the Tribe players are eager for their next competition.

"I'm really looking forward to the last three meets of the season," Lewis said.

W&M heads to James Madison University Saturday to take on the Dukes, George Washington University and Towson University.

Oft-overlooked play-in bracket selection makes for mad, mad March

FROM THE SIDELINES



ALEX ROCHE

March Madness is finally upon us, and that means it's time for the annual 12-over-five upset, the rolling on of the unstoppable juggernaut that is the Big East, the final moment of truth for the Missouri Valley Conference and its four bids and, of course, the San Diego State cheerleaders. As you filled out your bracket and rushed to get it in by noon Thursday, you may have noticed that annoying little 16a versus 16b, the Monmouth University/Hampton University opening round game. You didn't pick it. You didn't watch it. You didn't wait to see the matchups before you penciled Villanova University into the second round. Your bracket didn't go in until a full two days after the game was over. Shame on you. It's time someone stood up for the little guys. In that spirit, I present to you the top 16 reasons the play-in game does matter.

16b. Where else can you see two small-time teams you've never heard of with records barely above .500 duke it out for the right to play one of the top five teams in the country? That's good

stuff.

16a. If Monmouth's 7'2", 320 lb. center John Bunch isn't the ideal spokesperson for the little guy, who is?

15. Monmouth may have won by 22 points and led by 15 at half-time, but stats are misleading — it was a close-fought game.

14. Hawks and Pirates are cool, if unoriginal, mascots.

13. The basketball programs at both Monmouth and Hampton boast higher graduation rates than their big conference counterparts, produce young men of strong moral fiber and help to improve the overall integrity of the game. (Please note that this reason is not actually valid, since nobody cares about any of that stuff — just dunks.)

12. Dayton can legitimately claim to be the birthplace of aviation and of the NCAA tournament as the home of the play-in game. So I ask you, if Wilbur and Orville Wright made sure to get their Monmouth pick in by Tuesday morn-

ing, shouldn't you?

11. No 16 seed has ever defeated a one seed in their first-round match-up, which means every time you watch a team win the play-in game, you are watching a team tie the record for most victories ever for a 16 seed — history in the making.

10. Al-Quaeda, the Taliban and Lex Luthor hate the play-in game.

9. When you watch the play-in game, you don't need to listen to Dick Vitale talk about his personal videotape collection of J. J. Redick showering.

8. Watching the play-in game is better than being stabbed repeatedly.

7. At least Hampton's pep band was pretty good, even though the trombone player probably would've done a better job hitting free throws than half of their team.

6. The play-in game was your last chance this year to watch a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference team in action.

5. Both Hampton and Monmouth could probably beat the New York Knicks — Stephon "Starbury" Marbury notwithstanding.

4. The tourney hadn't started, and baseball is still in spring training, so there were no other "meaningful" sporting events going on last Tuesday; why not watch the play-in? (No, the NBA and NHL are not "meaningful.")

3. We've all grown tired of the hysteria and over-publicity that surrounds middle-school basketball, so it's nice to watch some more relaxed and laid-back games.

2. W&M beat Hampton, and even though Hampton was the first team eliminated from the pool of 65, that still means the Tribe can hang with tourney teams.

1. The odds on Monmouth or Hampton winning a national championship were literally measured in sextillions, and you know what that means ... nice payouts.

Alex Roche is a senior at the College. Yes, he really does care about the little guys.

Tae Kwon Do

Life Sports: Get Involved

BY MATTHEW A. NOLAN
THE FLAT HAT

"It would be nice to have a quiet environment to concentrate. But this is fine," junior Hee Suk Ko said. She reactivated the W&M Tae Kwon Do club as a freshman in the spring of 2004. She remembers when the club enjoyed having a full racquetball court to themselves. Since Tae Kwon Do is famous for lightning fast kicks, the club feels that they could use more leg room.

"Space is limited with the other clubs ... we have to share [Adair gymnasium]," president of Tae Kwon Do club junior Matt Oreska said. Oreska runs the club Monday nights; Grandmaster Pyong Kil Ko, an eighth-degree black belt, instructs the students Thursday nights. First they perform essential stretches and warm ups, then they study basic techniques: punches, kicks and forms. The club works closely with the Korean-American Student Association in scheduling demonstrations.

Despite the fairly modern name, Tae Kwon Do has roots that reach as far back as the seventh century A.D., when Chinese Chuan Fa techniques were taught to Korean soldiers. This art evolved in different schools for a 1,000 years until the Japanese occupation of Korea, when various forms of karate mixed with traditional Korean martial arts. In 1955, the Korean government organized the various schools of martial arts into one, which they named Tae Kwon Do. Tae means "to kick or destroy with the foot," Kwon means "to punch with the fist" and Do is "the way" or "art." Tae Kwon Do is the national sport of Korea.

"I come mostly to exercise ... [Tae Kwon Do]



NICOLE SCHEER • THE FLAT HAT

Students practice their punches during Tae Kwon Do club. The club, which only recently reappeared on campus, meets Monday and Thursday nights in Adair Gymnasium from 9 to 10:30 p.m.

is a sport you fall in love with," freshman and second-degree black belt Brian Lucey said.

Among the world's three most practiced martial arts, Tae Kwon Do is an aerobic and cardiovascular workout that aids in muscular flexibility and endurance. Tae Kwon Do is one of two Asian martial arts in which athletes compete in the Olympics; the other is Judo. The W&M Tae Kwon Do club is affiliated with the World Tae Kwon Do Federation, the art's global governing body.

Even though black belts and other very experienced members far outnumber the beginners, the club is open to students of all skill levels. Because the club focuses more on technique than sparring, novices train alongside experienced members. The club also recently revamped its belt system,

scheduling two advancement tests per semester, thus allowing a novice to go from white belt to black belt in four years.

"It shouldn't be so hard to show your skill," Hee Suk Ko said.

Though the club emphasizes form and technique, they anticipate more sparring practice in the coming weeks in preparation for a tournament to be held at the University of Virginia. Four to six athletes are expected to compete in the April 8 general Tae Kwon Do tournament open to all Virginia colleges. The average club member has at least six years of experience, so Hee Suk Ko expects the club to do well.

The Tae Kwon Do club meets Monday and Thursday nights in Adair Gymnasium from 9 to 10:30 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW ... ?
Tae Kwon Do is currently practiced by more than 30 million people.

Sports Calendar

March 18 to March 24

— compiled by christopher adams

Saturday

♦ Go for a road trip. Baseball plays at Towson University at 1 p.m. If you're not in the traveling mood, you can find live stats through Tribeathletics.com.

Sunday

♦ On the off chance you did not watch the women's tennis team play yesterday, you can see them again at 11 a.m. They face 16th-ranked Harvard University on Busch Courts. Men's gymnastics can be found at James Madison University. If you're in the neighborhood, the meet starts at 3 p.m. Also, if you're a dedicated baseball fan, check them out at Towson University at 1 p.m.

Monday

♦ Other than a certain club that meets in Adair Gymnasium from 9 to 10:45 p.m., you can spend today watching the men's golf tournament. The W&M Invitational starts today and continues tomorrow.

Tuesday

♦ Dare to be different? Women's lacrosse takes on in-state rival University of Virginia at 7 p.m. at Albert-Daly Field.

Wednesday

♦ By the way, if you're up for getting wet, join the club swimming team in their practice from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m. in the Rec Center pool.

Thursday

♦ You can take a look at the Racket story for the Sports Calendar's Thursday night suggestion: Tae Kwon Do. The club meets in Adair Gymnasium from 9 to 10:30 p.m.

Friday

♦ Everyone's a little bit spastic sometimes. Apparently, today is the track and field team's time. According to Tribeathletics.com, the track and field team will be in three places at once: the Florida State Relays in Tallahassee, Fla., the Fred Hardy Invitational in Richmond and the Raleigh Relays in Raleigh, N.C. The Sports Calendar is most impressed at the team's ability to defy the laws of space and time.

Women's tennis beats wind, falls to no. 10 Texas

BY ANDREW PIKE
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

This past warm and blustery Monday, the 20th-ranked women's tennis team fell to the 10th-ranked University of Texas Longhorns, 5-2. Texas captured the first two doubles matches, earning one team point, and went on to win four of the six singles matches. This marks the Tribe's third straight loss, dropping them to a 9-5 record this season.

The Tribe's two singles victories came from the no. one and two

positions. Top player junior Megan Moulton-Levy, ranked no. 30 in the nation, rolled to a 6-2, 6-2 victory over no. 71 Mia Marovic. Freshman teammate Katarina Zoricic, ranked no. 103 in the nation, upset no. 57 Petra Dizdar 6-4, 6-2 for the Tribe's second point. In doubles, Zoricic teamed with Klaudyna Kasztelaniec for an 8-7 tiebreak victory over Dizdar and Marija Milic.

"The match against Texas was a step in the right direction in many ways," Head Coach Kevin Epley said. "We can build on it."

According to Epley, wind gusts of 25 to 30 mph tested both teams.

Over spring break, W&M traveled to California for matches against no. 1 Stanford University and no. 35 Fresno State University.

The Tribe dropped both matches, losing to Stanford 1-6 and Fresno State, 3-4. Moulton-Levy upset no. 15 Amber Liu 7-6 (3), 4-6, 1-0 (10-6) for the Tribe's lone victory. Despite the loss, three of the six singles matches went to a super tiebreaker (in lieu of a third set, the first person to 10 points with a two-point lead wins) as W&M competed strongly with the Cardinal. Against Fresno State, the Tribe lost all three doubles matches and split the six singles matches, as Moulton-Levy and seniors Megan Muth and Lingda Yang won their matches.

The Tribe has experienced its share of ups and downs this season. W&M knocked off no. 5 Duke University 4-3 Feb. 16, and trounced conference foe James Madison

University 7-0 Feb. 5, but currently finds itself in the midst of a three-match losing streak. Epley said he attributes this to having a roster that includes five freshmen who are still adapting to college tennis.

For the Tribe to improve on last season's first-round victory in the NCAA tournament, Epley said he believes total team effort in every match and better doubles play will be the keys to winning. By the end of the regular season, the Tribe will have faced 15 ranked teams, including the aforementioned no. 1 Stanford.

"I suspect that we will be rolling and playing near our potential in one month's time," Epley said. "I see us with the potential of doing well in the postseason."

Box SCORES

Women's Basketball

Drexel L, 44-64 March 2
Georgia State L, 66-81 March 8

Men's Tennis

Arizona L, 1-4 March 5
Boise State L, 2-5 March 7
Oregon W, 4-3 March 9
Harvard L, 2-5 March 12

Men's Gymnastics

Penn State L, 205.1 to 213.5 March 4
Navy W, 204.6 to 202.5 March 5
JMU W, 208.0 to 179.7 March 11

Women's Lacrosse

Boston W, 12-10 March 5
Richmond L, 9-13 March 8
Penn State W, 14-12 March 12
Georgetown L, 3-13 March 15

Men's Basketball

VCU L, 59-62 March 3

Women's Golf

Bobcat Classic 9th place March 6-8

Men's Golf

Birkdale Classic 11th place March 10-11

LEAP

into Leadership

WEDNESDAY

March 22nd

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Stress Management

&

Burnout Prevention

Questions ???

Contact Eric Eickhoff

ejeick@wm.edu

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